シュトヘル

伊藤悠

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TS COMICS SPECIAL

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潜航ヘル

11

伊藤 悠

Itoh Yu

BIG SPIRITS COMICS SPECIAL

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*THE COVER FLAP READS "GALE" IN TANGUT SCRIPT

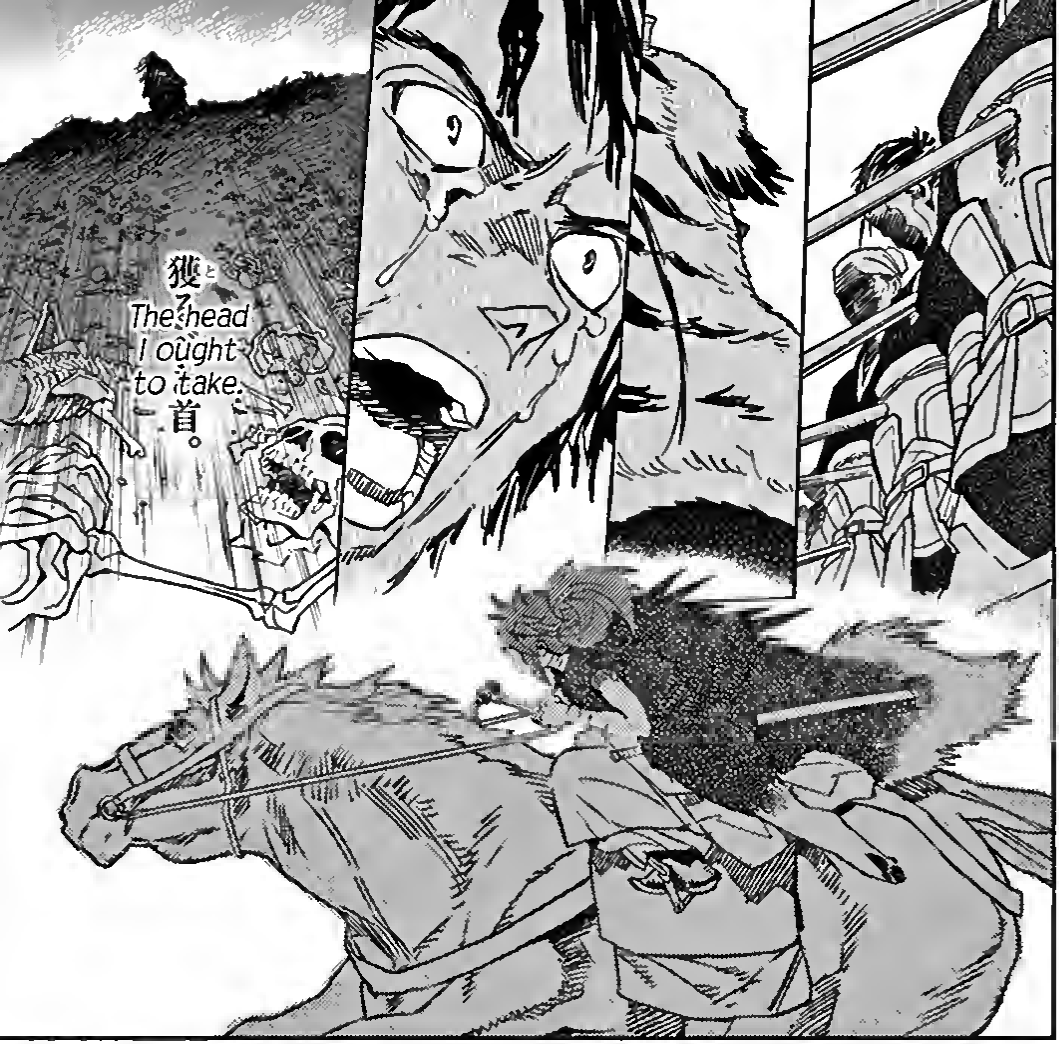
[Chapter LXVIII]

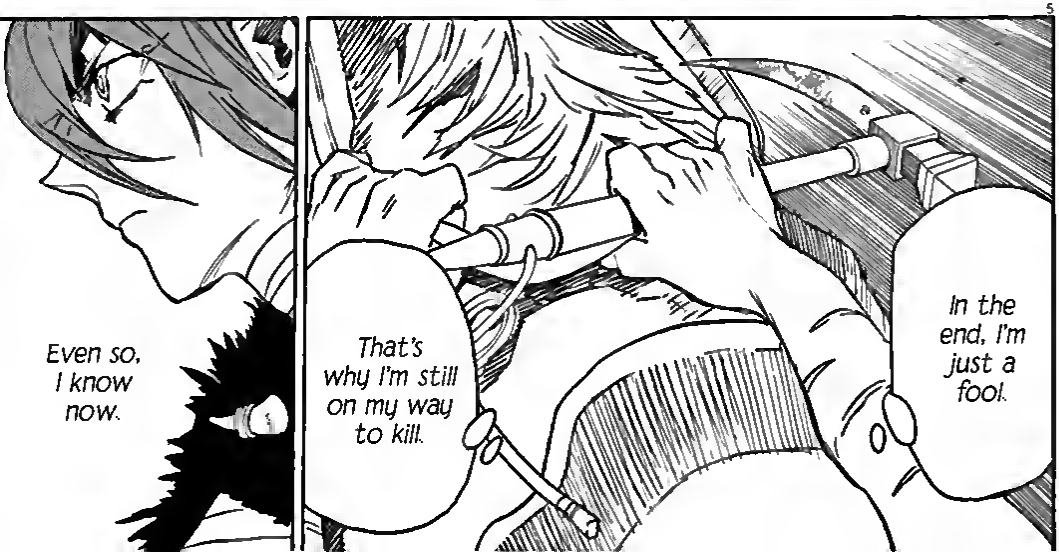
Eyes

ギィ…
...Too late.
Master Yunul,
have you already been taken to the Great Khan?

Please be in time,
Shut Hell.
ドドド

This dog whistle song is leading me
to the head of the Mongols.

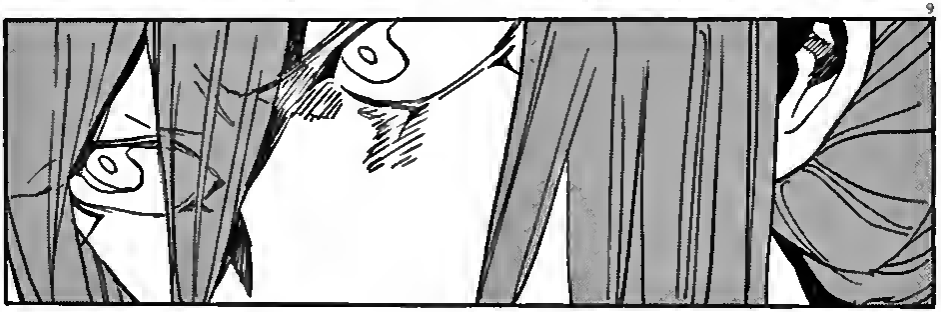

獲るべき首。
The head I ought to take.


Even so, I know now.
That's why I'm still on my way to kill.
In the end, I'm just a fool.

The hatred will only repeat itself, or get worse.
Even if I manage to kill the leader of the Mongols, nothing will end.
I don't want to let you die,
Even though I know I'm straying from your path.
6
A different kind of fool than me.
Yurul.
A fool who believes he can understand anyone, even a beast or a vengeful ghost, if they just talk...

Stones? Could it be Nalan?
Before the fire arrows, I didn't hear the sound of arrow feathers.
So, "Shut Hell," the Mongol-killer.
Salhi.
Sholga.
I wonder what she came here for...

That Tangut bandit, is it?



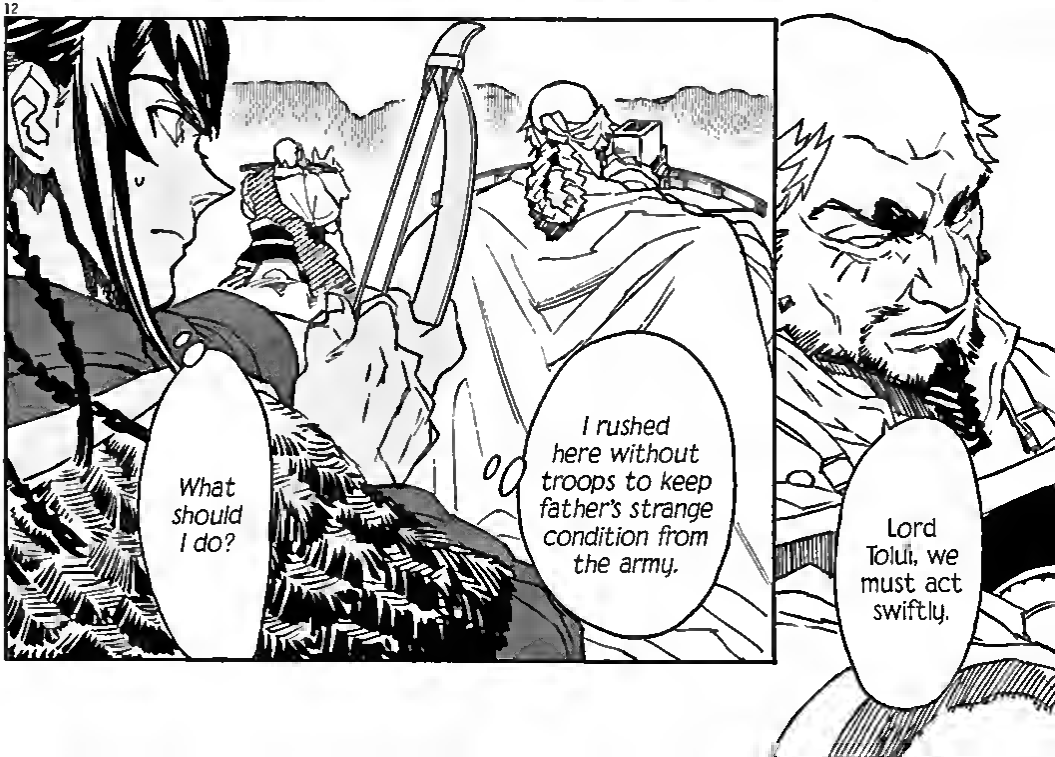
I have always devoured the blood and flesh of my enemies.
...Little me, I will not hear your jests.

You return to me like a ghost...
Have you come to feed me resignation and submission once more?
As you did then?
Temujin.
I have merely come to talk,
Father.
You won't spare me a glance?

are burned into people's hearts as scars...
I have learned that letters...
even the Tangut script,
No.
Even so, the Tangut script–
until those brandings in the shape of writing become mere meaningless burn marks.
I have learned that there are people who want to burn those letters up and erase them from the face of the earth.

no writing must be burned away.

She's hidden herself, but we cannot overlook her here.
That bandit they say kills only our soldiers.


What should I do?
I rushed here without troops to keep father's strange condition from the army.
Lord Tolui, we must act swiftly.

Salhi.
Old man, I'm leaving the young prince in your care.

Don't get carried away,
...Your highness, go on ahead. Sholga will accompany you.
Capture all of her at a glance.

as well as the scars and pain you have wrought upon the world.
...I have considered your scars and your pain,
14
to talk about the future.
That's why I've come here
If you want Yurul to be alive for your last meeting, that is.
...You'd better hurry, "Shut Hell."

Come on out, "Shut Hell."
This is a war between the Mongols and the Jin, Tangut bandit.
Why come all the way out here to kill us?
For pleasure? To settle a grudge?
If the blood of your last prey that I just saw belonged to one of our men,

"...When it comes to shooting humans with a crossbow,"

ガシャ

then it'll be a shame I have to blow away a woman's breast and guts.

"Whether you aim to stop them moving, or to take their life, decide where to shoot at a glance."

"you must see the whole target, Salh."

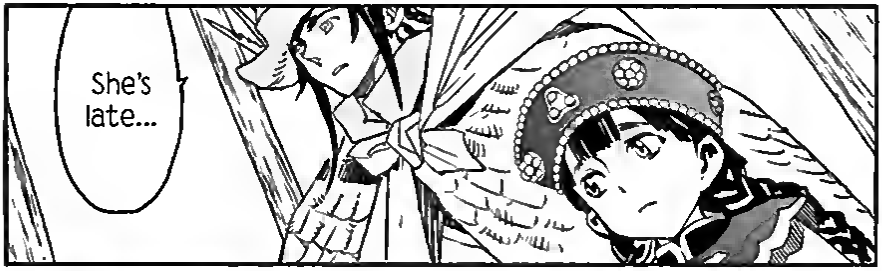
"If you can spy out determination or personality in an enemy's eyes, you'll be slow on the trigger."

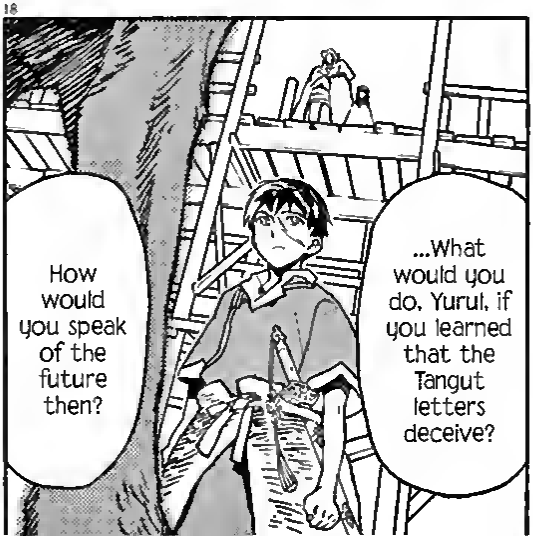
"You're brave, boy, but you take too much interest in people."

"Don't look at your target's face, especially not the eyes."

"When you use a sword, look at the eyes,"
"but when you shoot someone with a crossbow,"
"I see all of them."

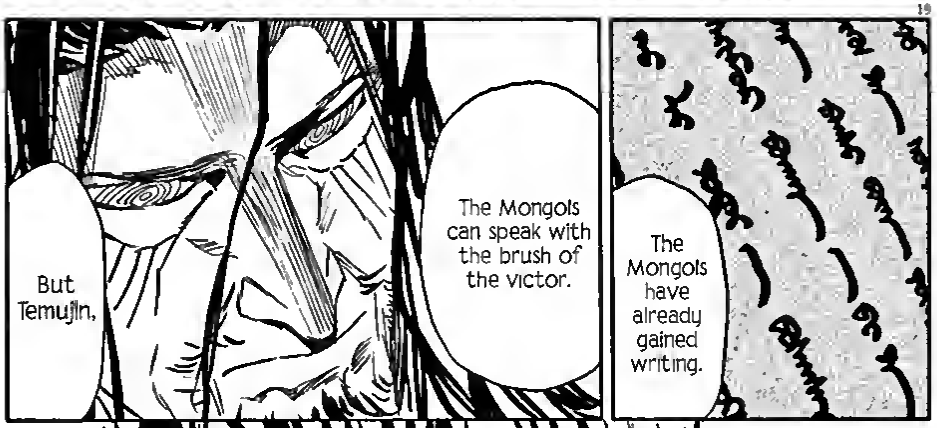
"Don't look at their eyes."


She's late...

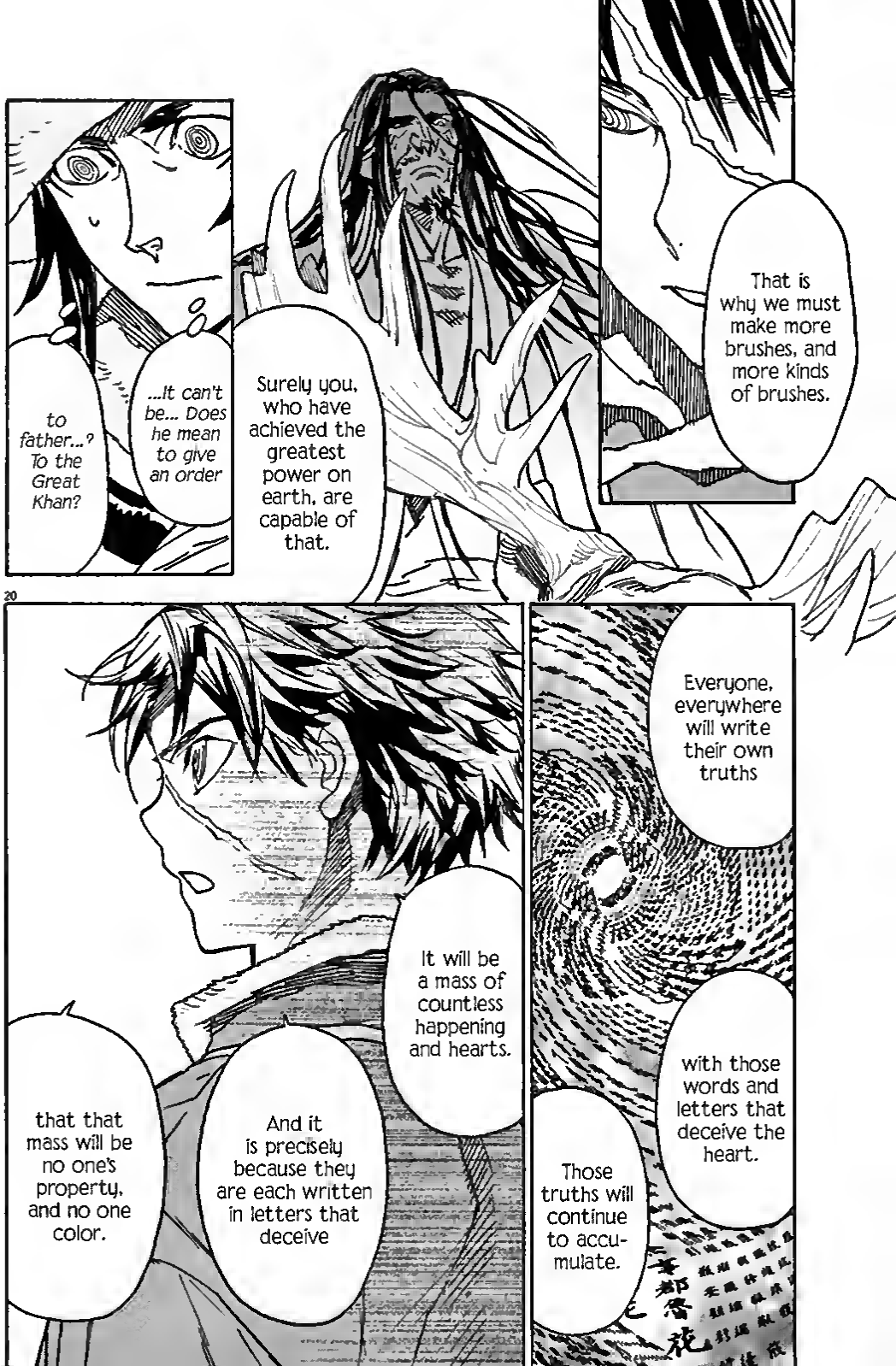

How would you speak of the future then?
...What would you do, Yurui, if you learned that the Tangut letters deceive?

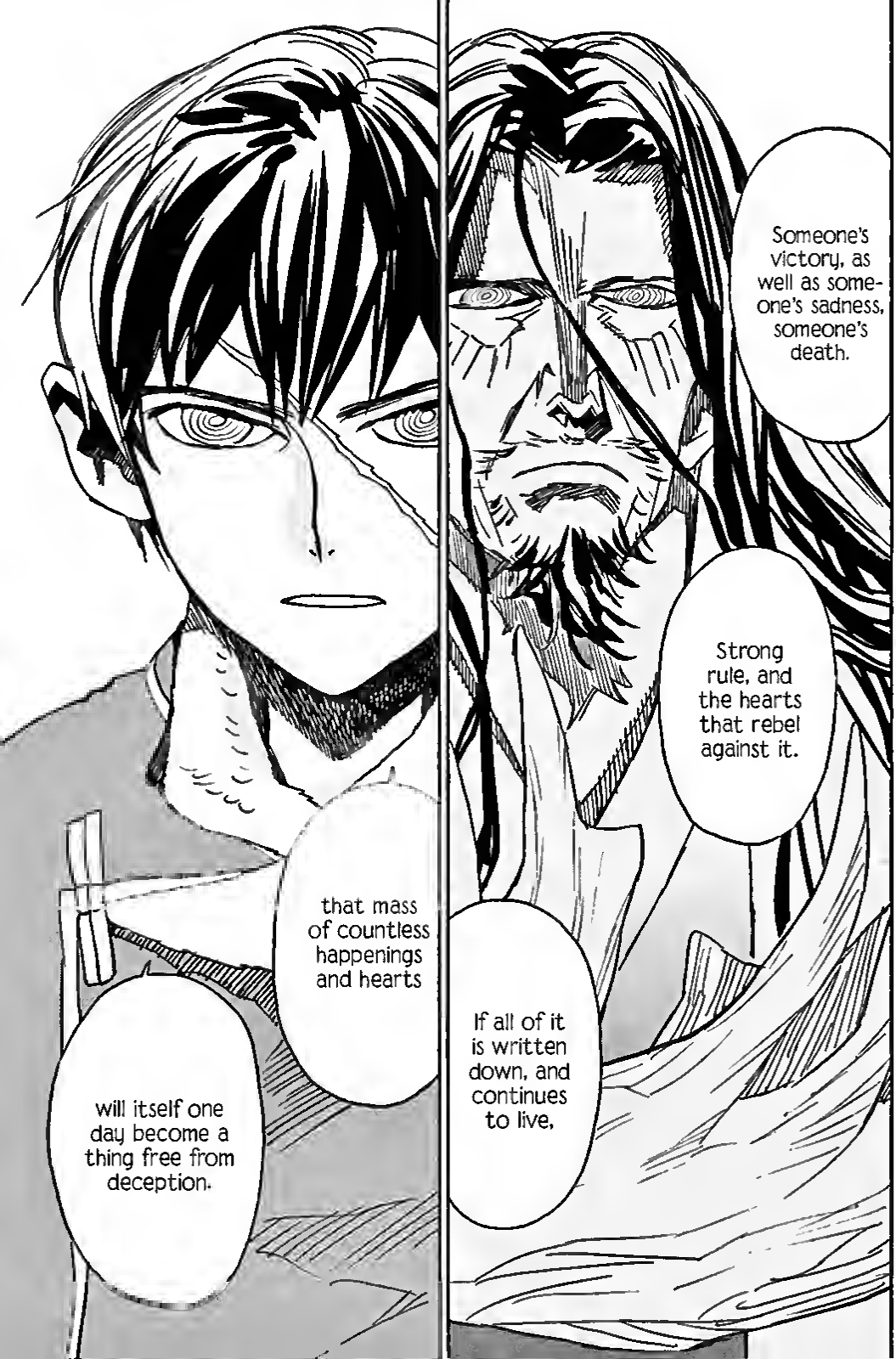
"Shut Hell" is on her way here.
I called her. It was a long song.

If they decieve, it is not the letters, but someone's brush, that lies.


But Temujin,
The Mongols can speak with the brush of the victor.
The Mongols have already gained writing.

As long as people struggle for that single victor's brush, what it writes will always be lies to someone.
what the brush of the victor write is always full of deceit in the eyes of the vanquished. One day someone will reach for that brush.


That is why we must make more brushes, and more kinds of brushes.
Surely you, who have achieved the greatest power on earth, are capable of that.
...It can't be... Does he mean to give an order to father...? To the Great Khan?
20
Everyone, everywhere will write their own truths
with those words and letters that deceive the heart.
Those truths will continue to accumulate.
It will be a mass of countless happening and hearts.
And it is precisely because they are each written in letters that deceive
that that mass will be no one's property, and no one color.

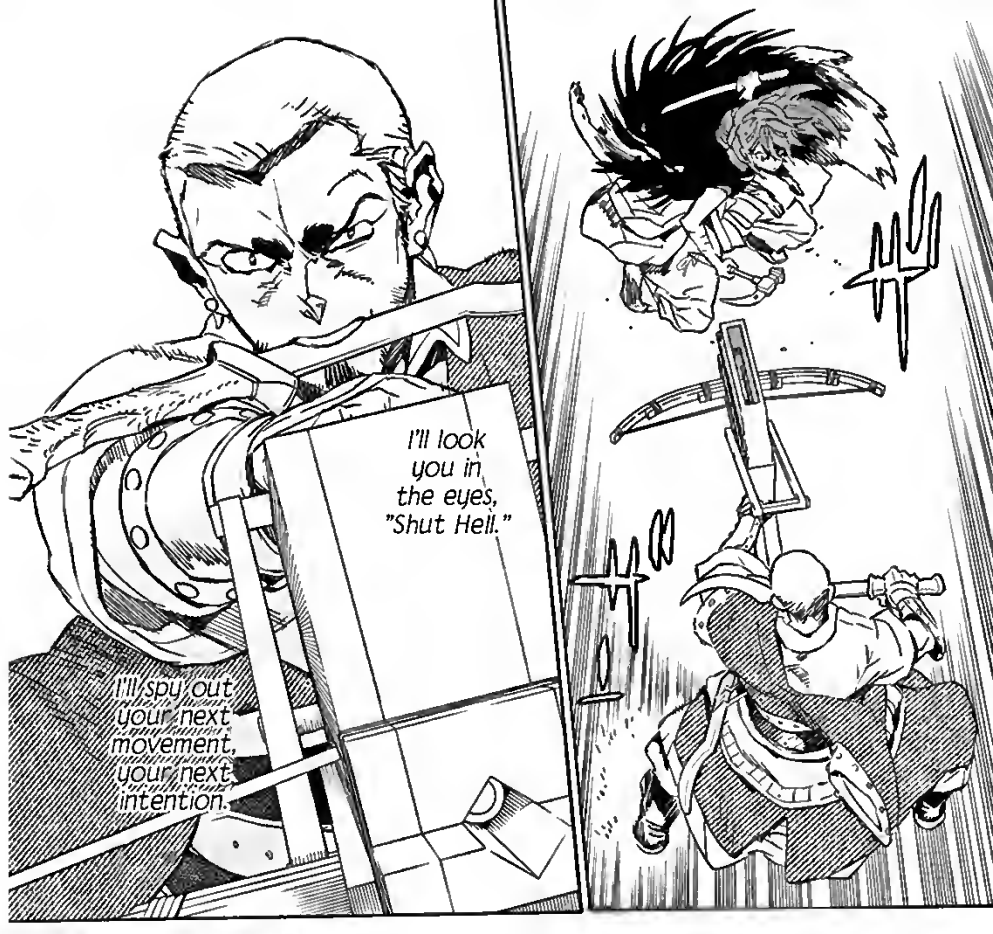

Someone's victory, as well as someone's sadness, someone's death.
Strong rule, and the hearts that rebel against it.
If all of it is written down, and continues to live,
that mass of countless happenings and hearts
will itself one day become a thing free from deception.

That mass will live.
Even the people who were deceived and forgotten and buried away.
Even the children
whose backs are scorched with pain.
It will give them strength.
22
23
It will tie people together,
and brush aside the earth and sand piled over them.
Letters will give people life.
That was what my shadow said to me that day.
"Resign yourself to what can't be changed and consume it. Do that and live on."

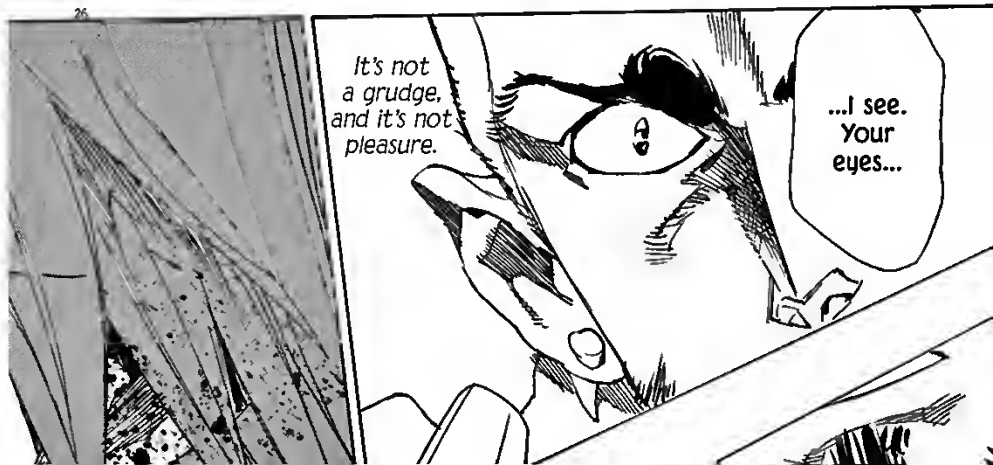
Far from counseling resignation, it preaches a dream that will not come true in a thousand years.
Today it is the opposite.
It speaks of the dead and the weak in the same breath as myself,
and says that letters will save us all.
And so it tells me not to burn writing.

ドゴォ
25

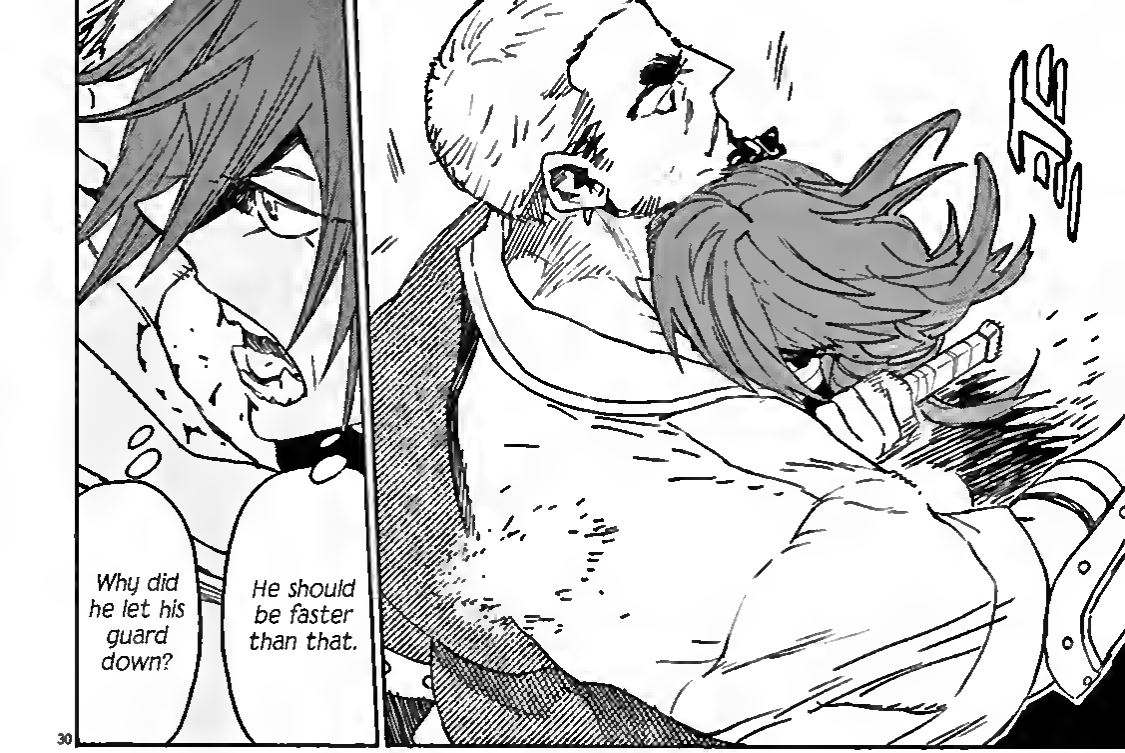
advancing purely to slay your foe...
Those eyes of yours,


I'll look you in the eyes, "Shut Hell."
I'll spy out your next movement, your next intention.

You're going to meet someone...

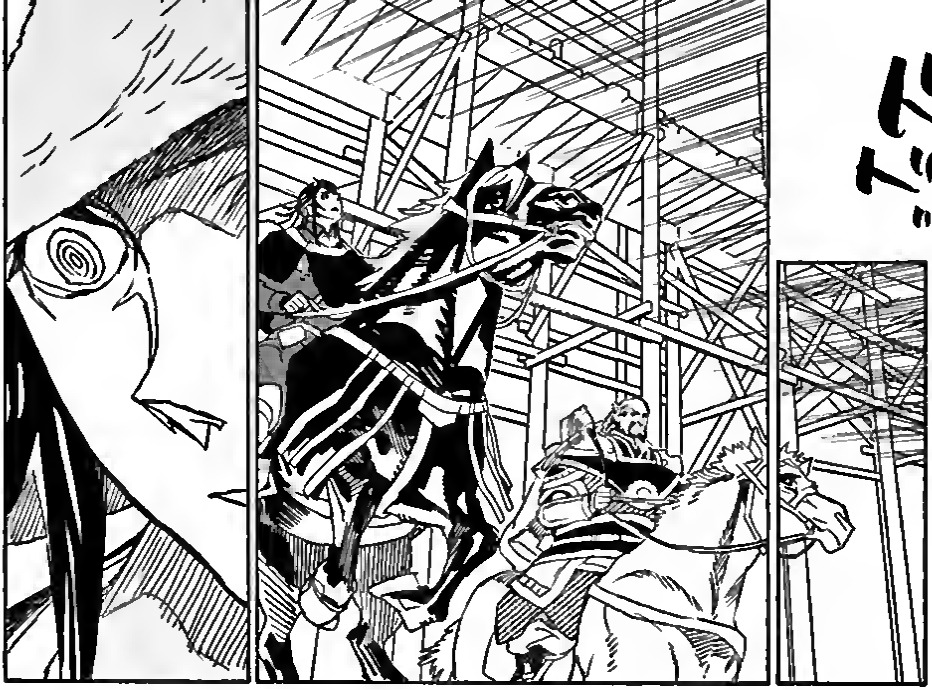

It's not a grudge, and it's not pleasure.
...I see. Your eyes...

...Who is it?
29
28

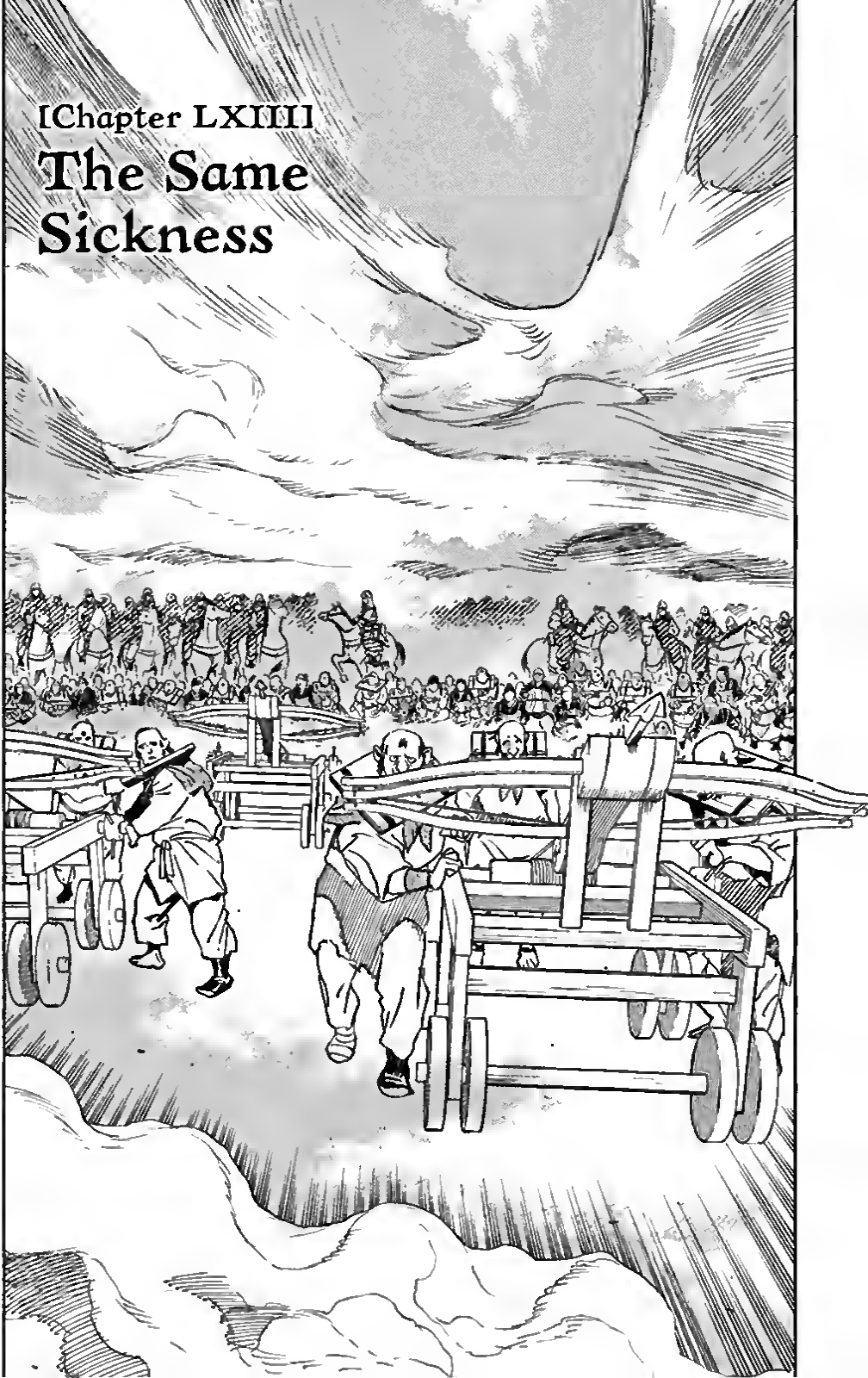

Why did he let his guard down?
He should be faster than that.

Anyway, I appreciate it.

...Your man's got no luck.
You don't plan on coming back alive... do you, "Shut Hell"...?
ガシャ

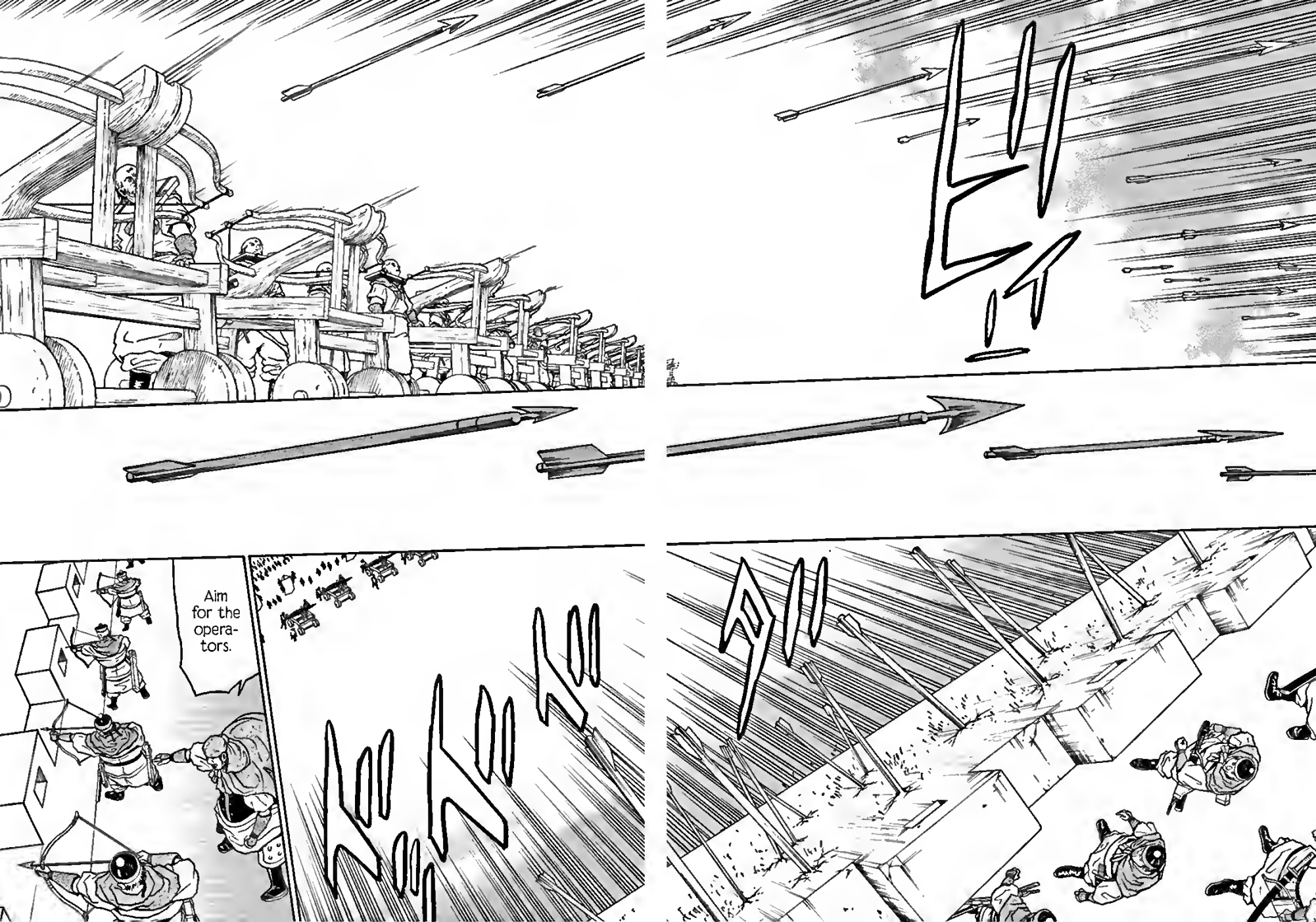


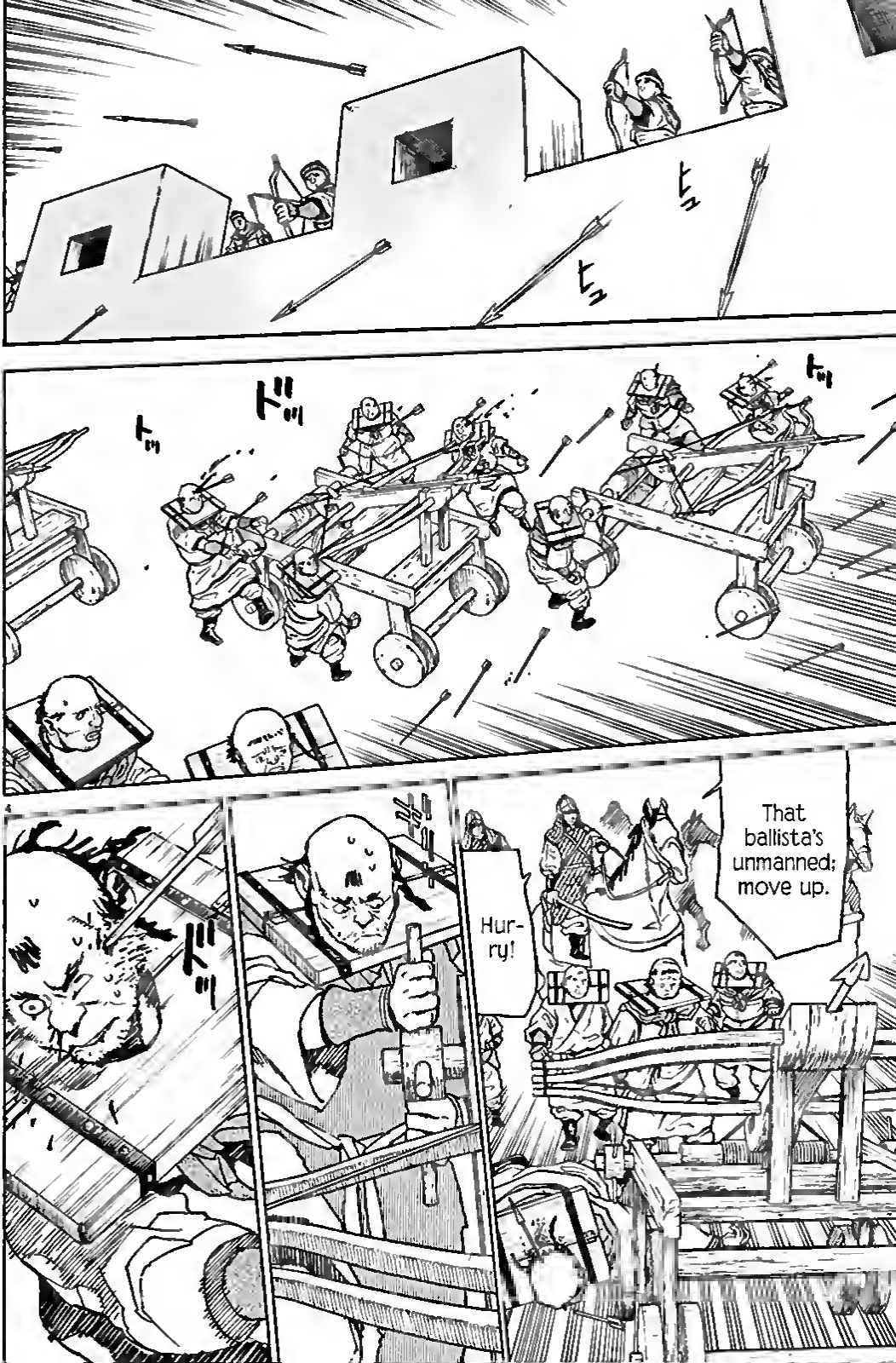
Tolui...



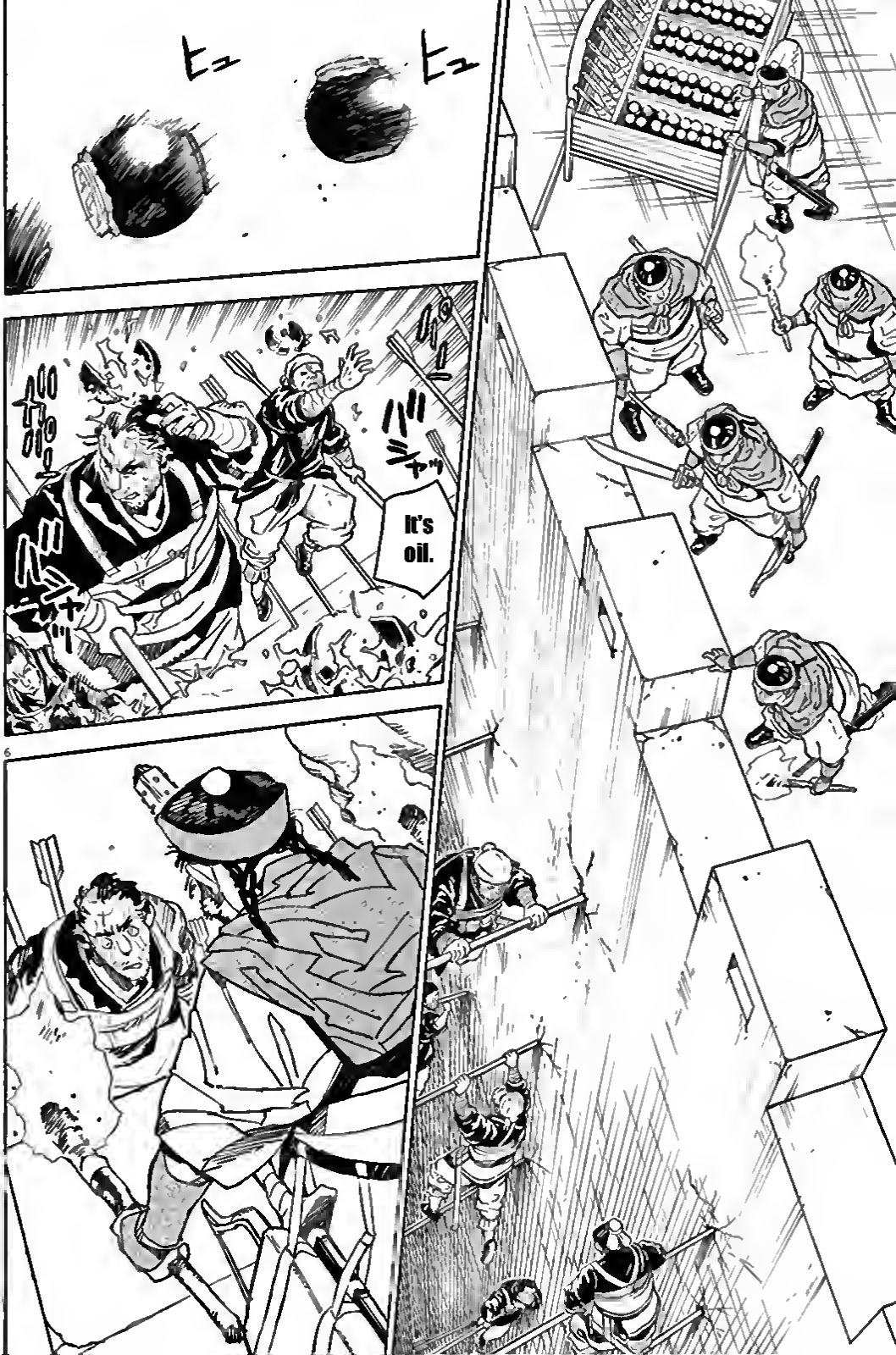
[Chapter LXIIII]

The Same Sickness

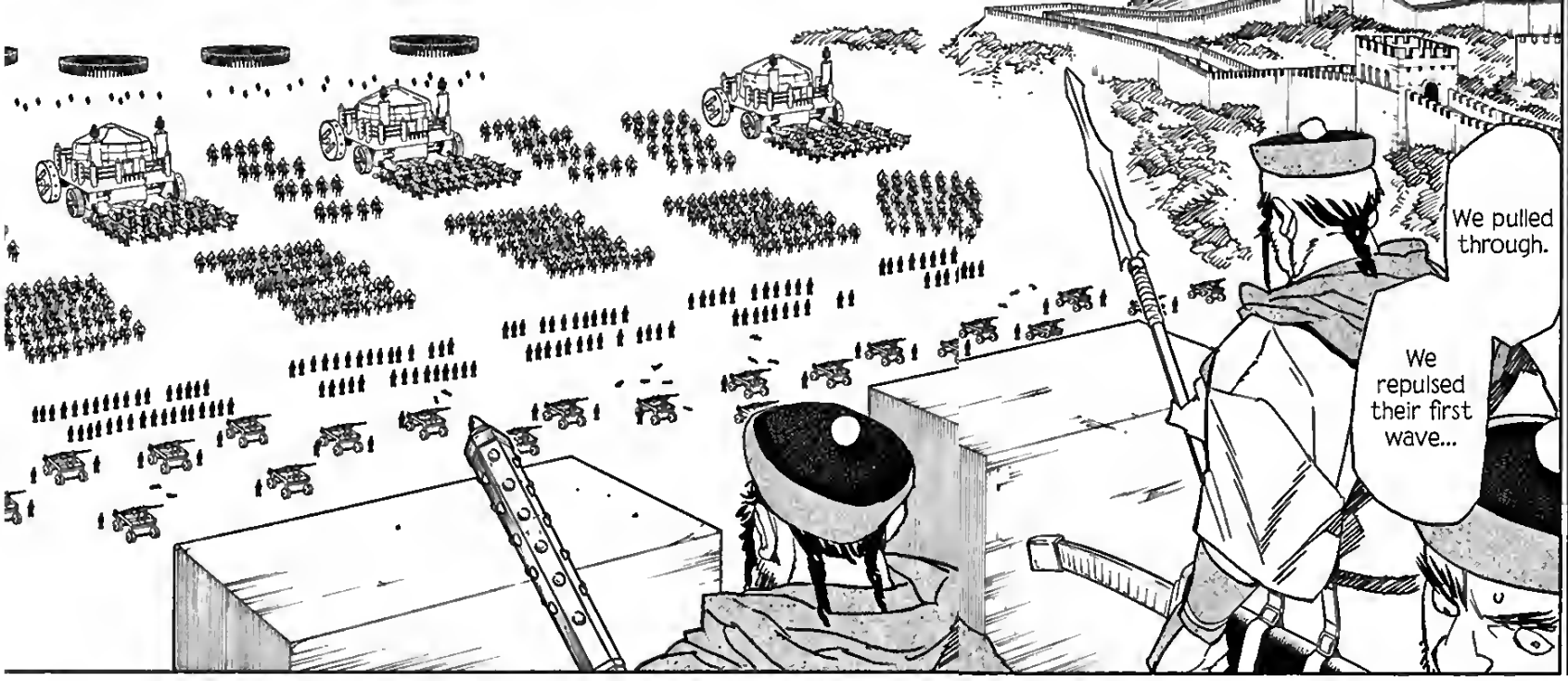

Aim for the operators.

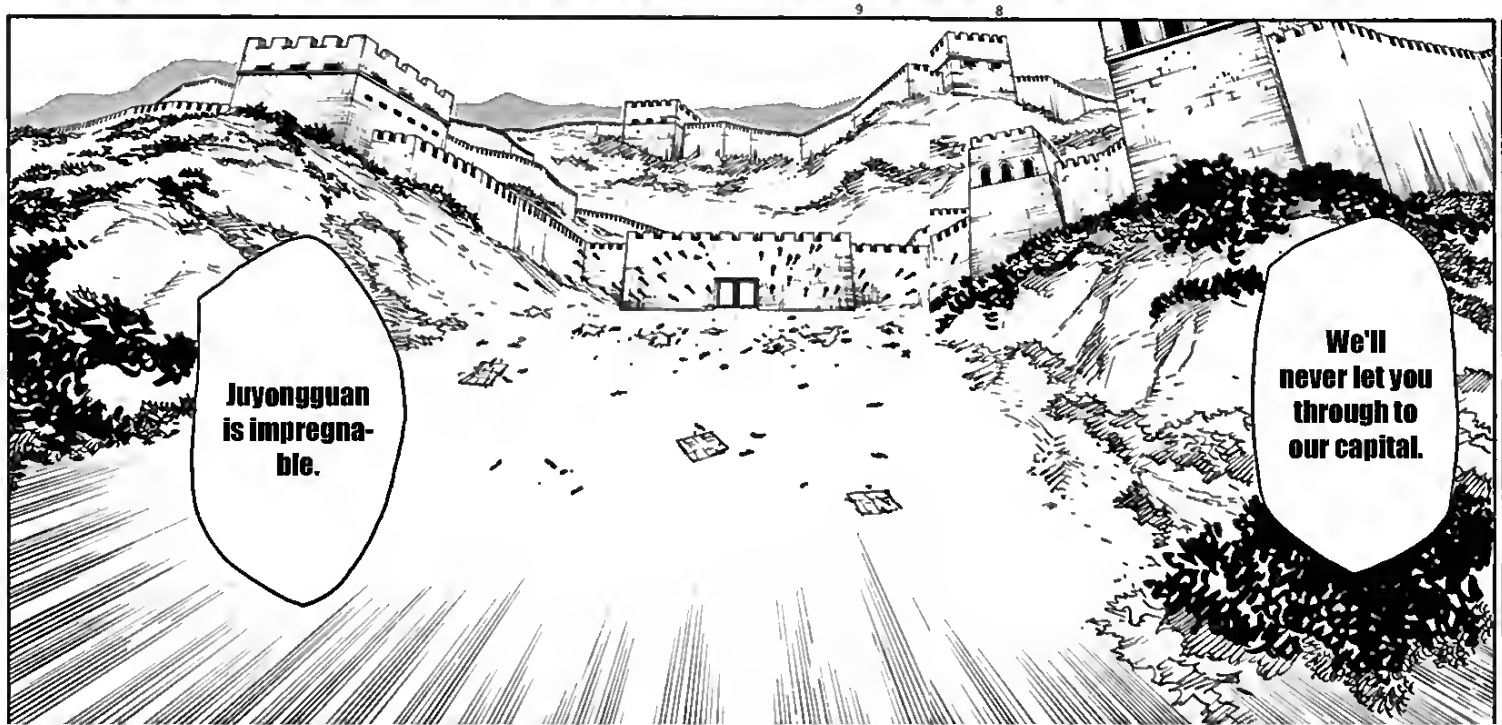

That ballista's unmanned; move up.
Hurry!

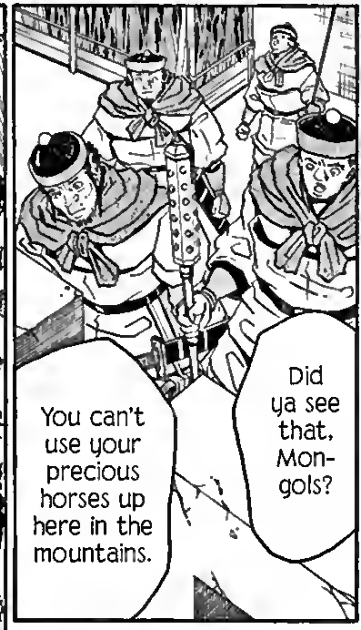
Damn the Mongols... They only send Jin and Tangut prisoners to the front.
5
Thwip
Thwip
Thwip
They've come closer. They're planning to climb the harpoons they shot into the walls.
Shoot. Shoot them!

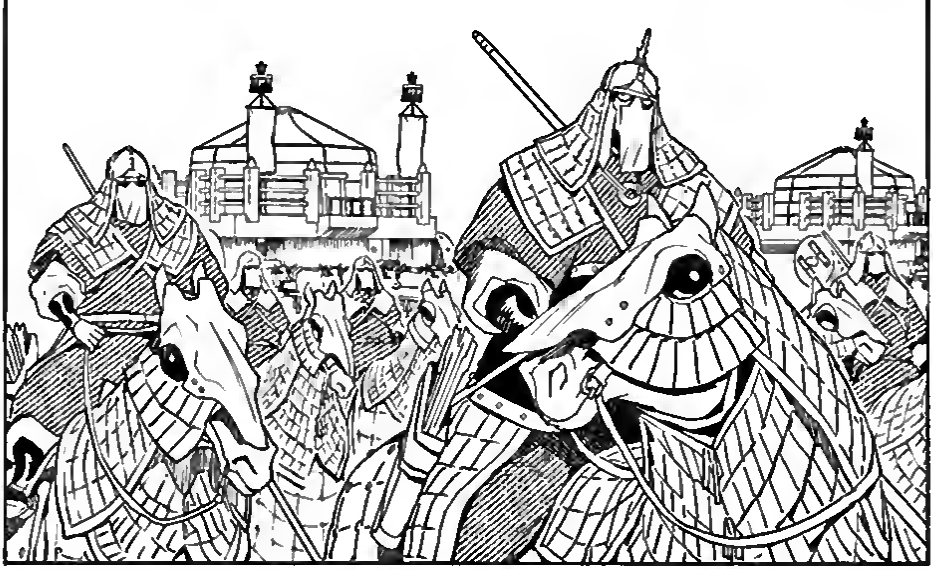

ヒュ
ヒュ
ハシャ
It's oil.

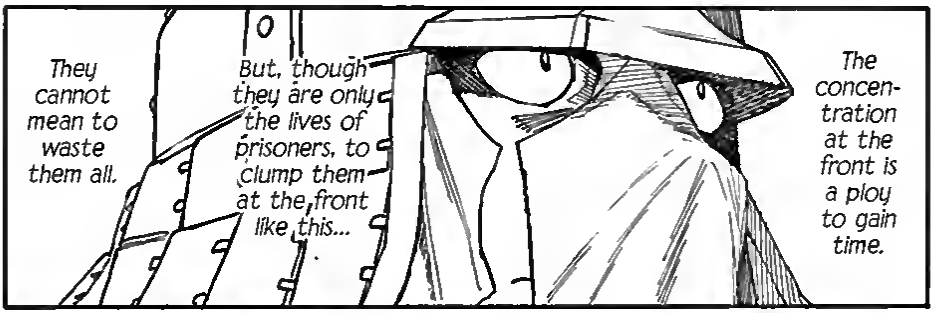
Please, no.
……
ガロロ
ヒュン
ヒュン

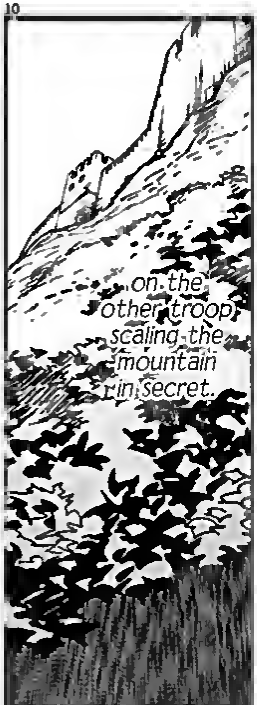

We pulled through.
We repulsed their first wave...
Look.

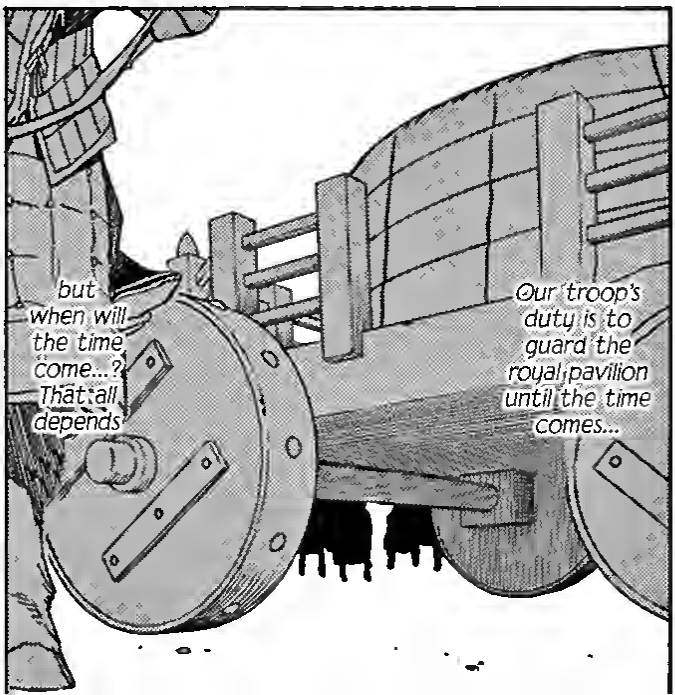

Juyongguan is impregnable.
We'll never let you through to our capital.


You can't use your precious horses up here in the mountains.
Did ya see that, Mongols?



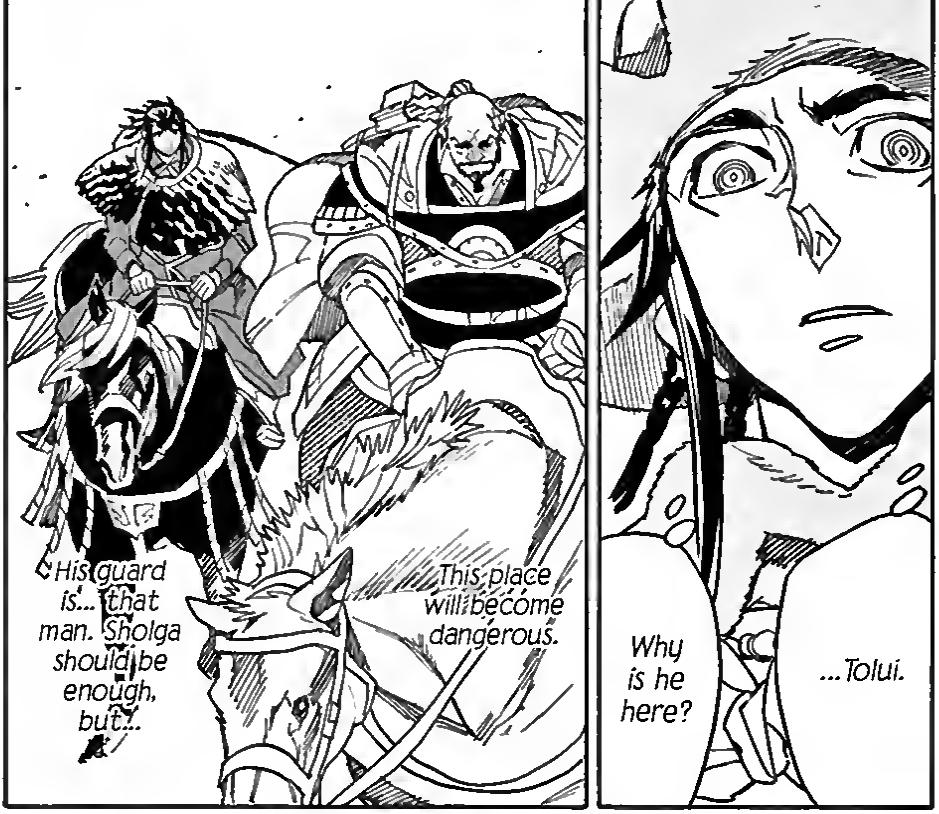

They cannot mean to waste them all.
But, though they are only the lives of prisoners, to clump them at the front like this...
The concentration at the front is a ploy to gain time.


on the other troop scaling the mountain in secret.


but when will the time come...? That all depends
Our troop's duty is to guard the royal pavilion until the time comes...

Is the gunpowder ready?
No reinforcements. Guess they still haven't noticed.
All taken care of.
We'll make a hole through to Zhongdu in the center of this wall,
and our army will surge through it like an avalanche.

Nalan, what are you...?


His guard is... that man. Sholga should be enough, but...
This place will become dangerous.
Why is he here?
...Tolui.

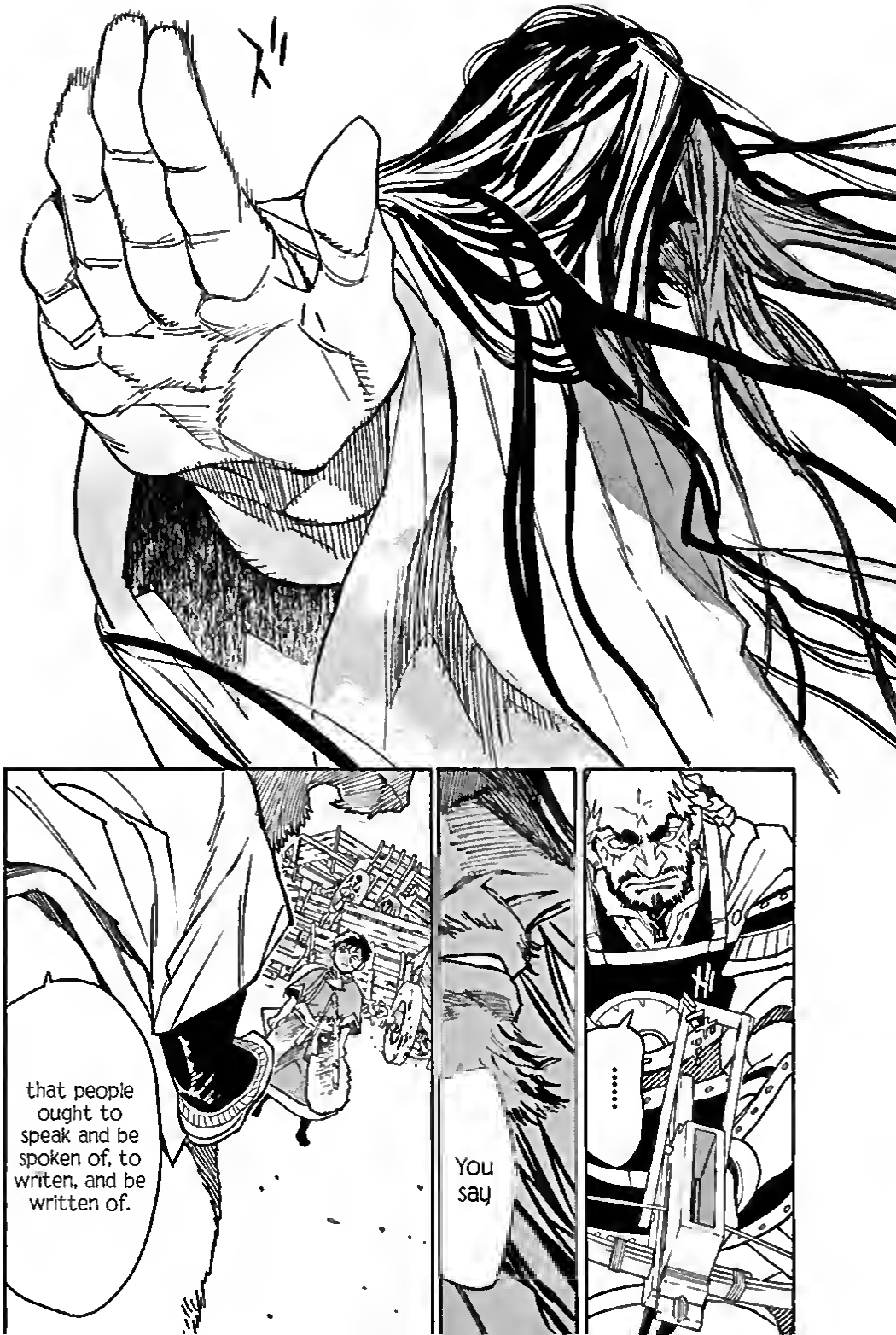
13

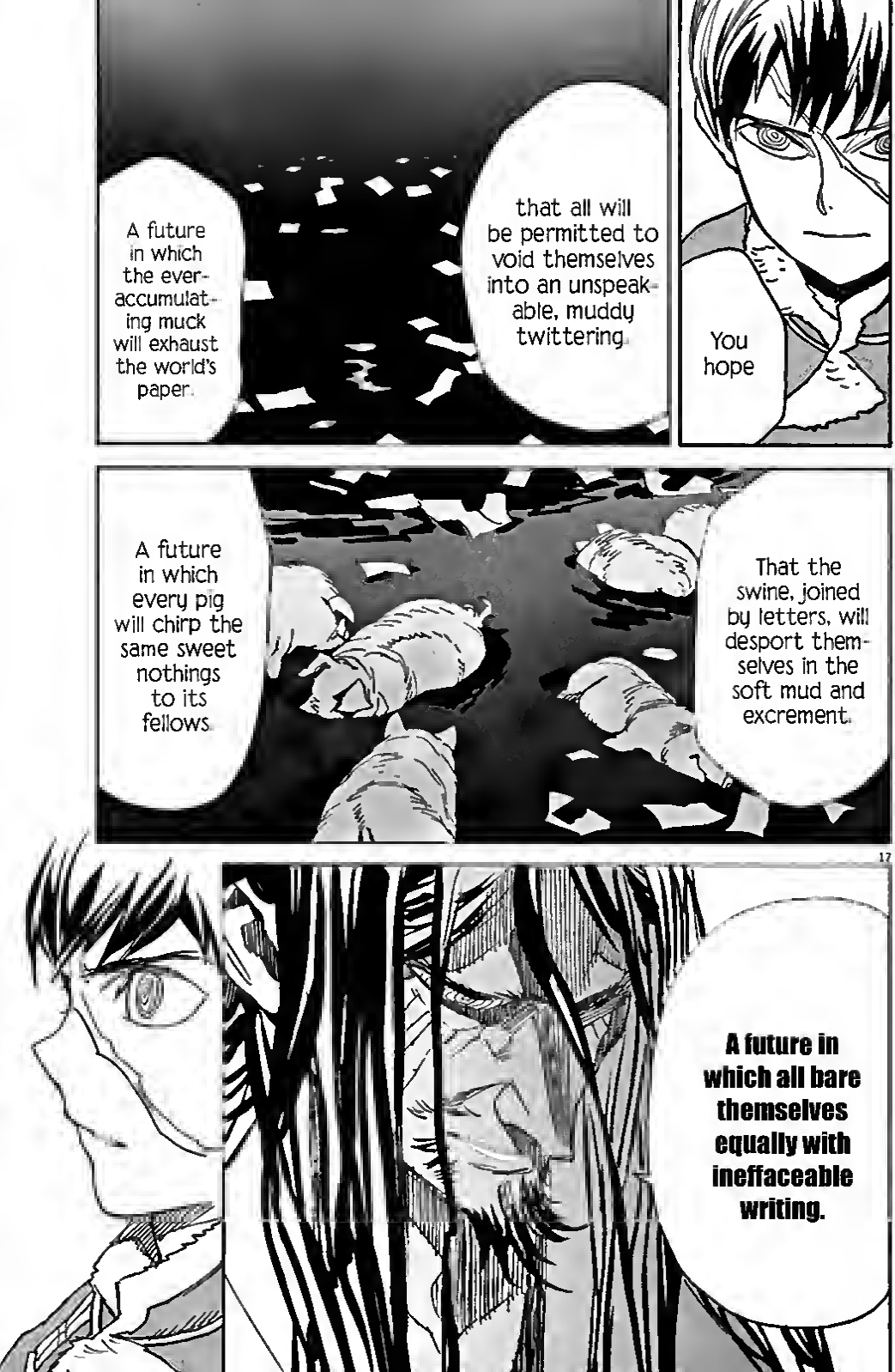
Even so,
our younger brother's death. And our father's.
I didn't want you to see

you desired to see them, didn't you, Tolui?

That boy... Those really are father's eyes...
...No.

...That will be a bane
to the Mongols...
No.
To kings
of all nations.


that people ought to speak and be spoken of, to writen, and be written of.
You say
.....


A future in which the ever-accumulating muck will exhaust the world's paper.
that all will be permitted to void themselves into an unspeakable, muddy twittering.
You hope
A future in which every pig will chirp the same sweet nothings to its fellows.
That the swine, joined by letters, will desport themselves in the soft mud and excrement.
A future in which all bare themselves equally with ineffaceable writing.

A wolf will never wish it.
It wishes to run to the ends of the earth and to consume all it can.
Not to tell, nor to be told of.
It is a sickness.

You and I
have a fever in the depths of our souls. It will be there until we die.

It will stave off resig-nation
until we die.

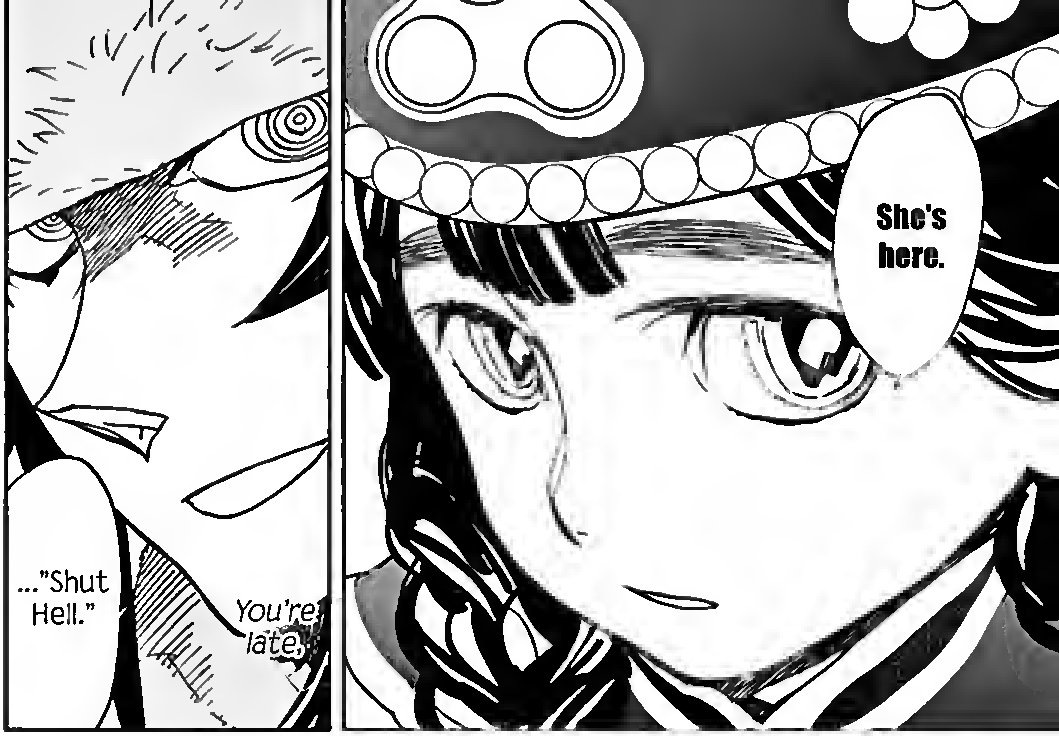
Where...
will your sickness end?
So it didn't work.
...Temu-jin!

...People, are people.
Even you.
Not even if they're so fearsome they don't seem human.
People are people; not pigs or wolves.

The contempt for pigs and the fear of wolves repeat themselves...
but surely humans are the ones to leave that cycle someday...?

Is there no hope for us?
I've overcome fear and hate to come here.
...Good-bye, Yurul.

to be the one to reel in Yurul's death, and father's... and to observe them.
I am truly grieved, even if only a little,
I won't dirty your hands, and yet
you'll bear witness, won't you, Tolui?
To our – to the Mongol's – sunset, and to our dawn?

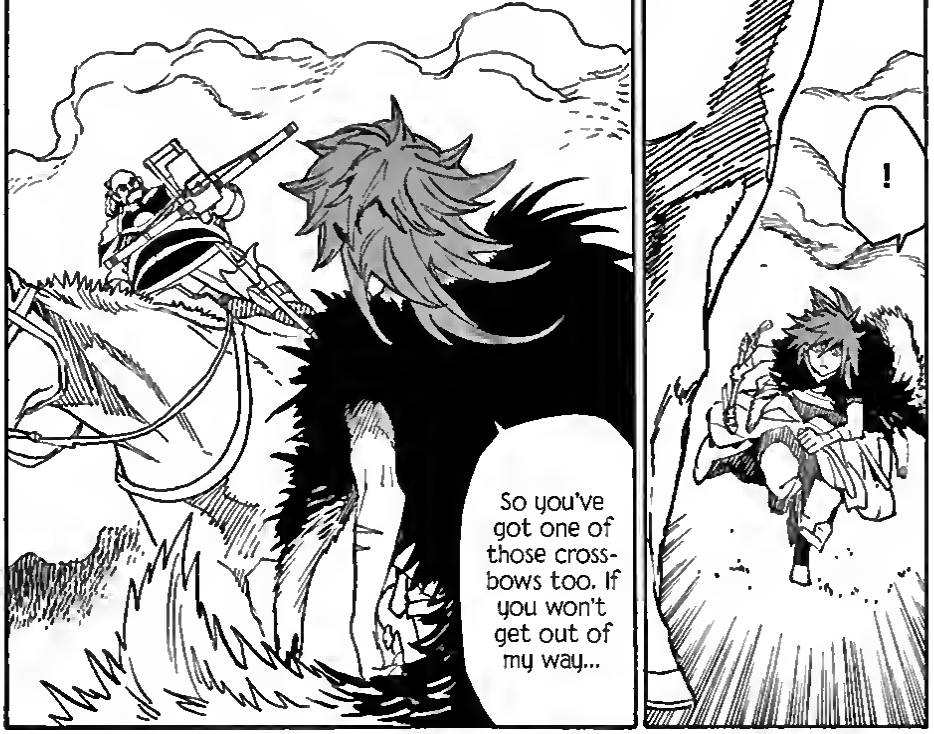

...”Shut Hell.”
You're late.
She's here.

Yurul!
...Shut Hell...?
The Tangut bandit ...!
She's aiming for father!!

28

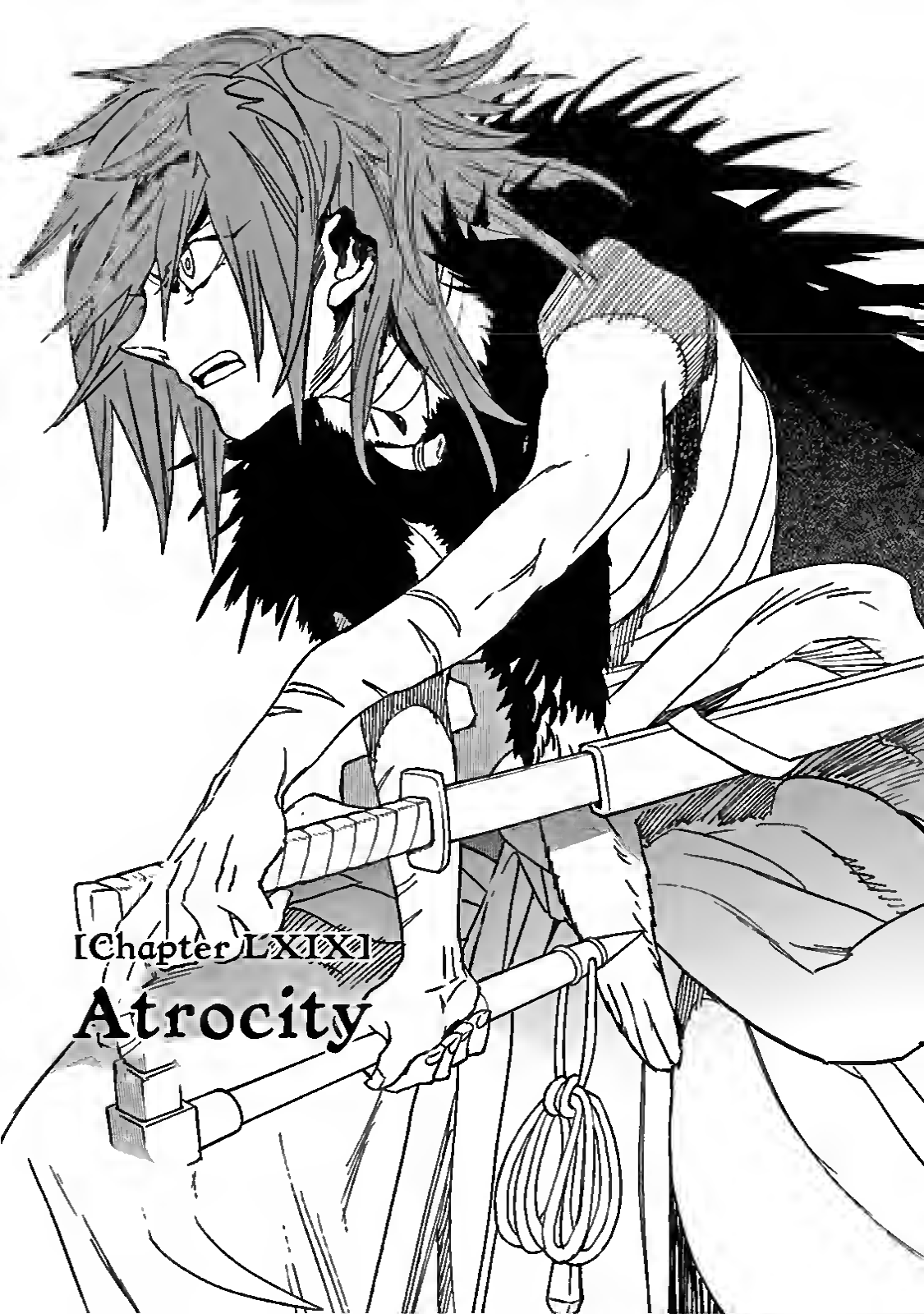
29
Jump
It will be alright, Melumi.
Land

Shoot her, Sholga. I'll go to father's side.
The bandit's fire arrow set light to the scrap wood. It's hard to see.
Damn brigand. She dodged it.
Even though I aimed for her head.
Looks like it only had three shots.
With the arrows gone, it's just dead weight.
But this smoke is convenient.
Yurui will be able to escape or hide.


So you've got one of those cross-bows too. If you won't get out of my way...
!

I'll cut you down like the last one.
then just try shooting.

...Tell me,
how did he die?
The man who had this crossbow.



[Chapter LXIX]

Atrocity

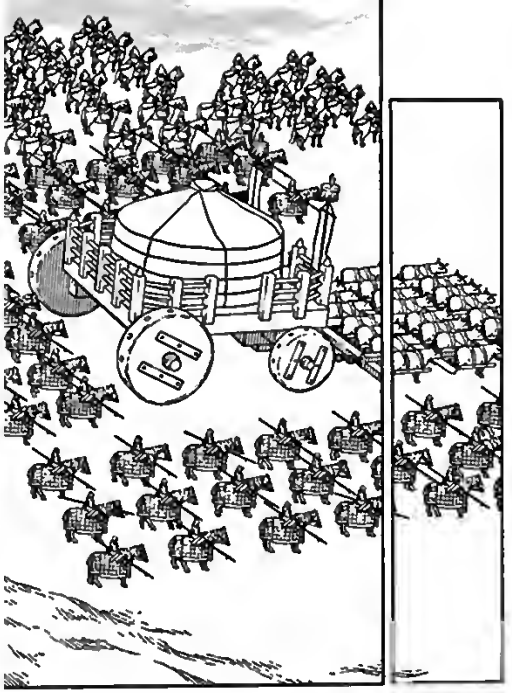
How did he die?
The man who had this crossbow.
2
The bow is a threat.
He won't shoot until I answer.

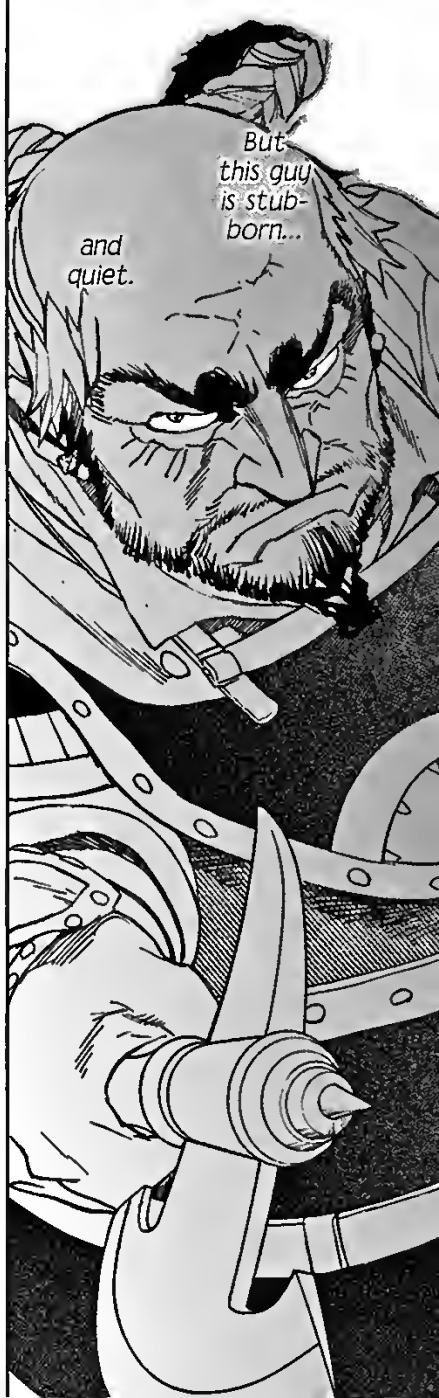
If you want to mourn him, go home.
If you want to follow him, just stick out your neck.
!
If a wild dog like you understands speech,
answer me.

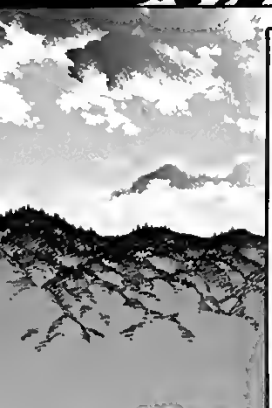
You want to know how he died?
He met a worthy end, just like you hoped.
That satisfy you?
This guy's face never moves.
I gave you your answer, so back off.

Who ought to be shaken by the death of his comrade.
If I use that, I can kill him quickly.
5
I have to get to Yurul soon.
Out of my way!

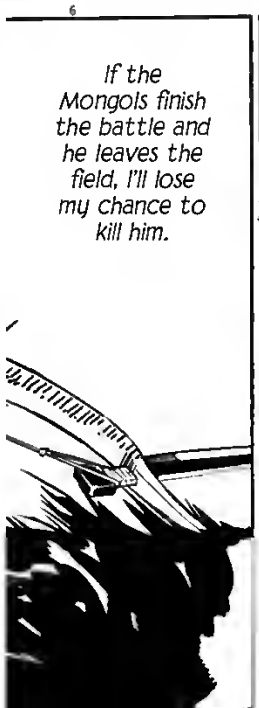
They're rushing a frontal assault, and committing more troops to that than to defending their camp.
The Mongols can no longer afford a long siege.
A lot of their provisions burned.

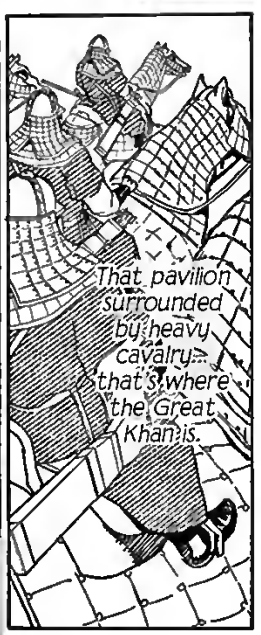


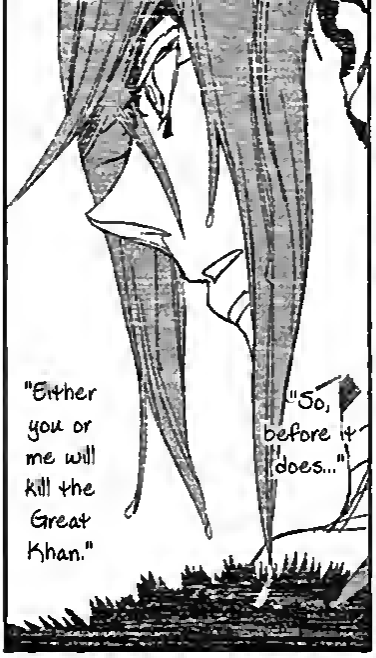

But this guy is stubborn...
and quiet.


The sun will set soon...
If I can't see him, I can't shoot him.

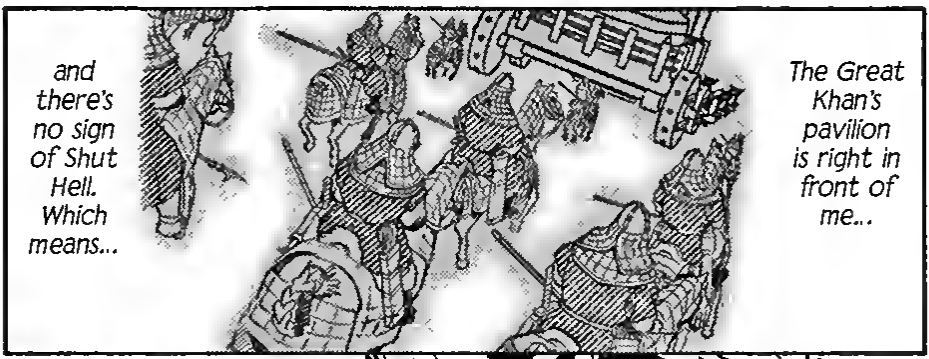
Surely he'll show himself outside the pavilion before then.


If the Mongols finish the battle and he leaves the field, I'll lose my chance to kill him.


That pavilion surrounded by heavy cavalry... that's where the Great Khan is.


"Either you or me will kill the Great Khan."
"So, before it does..."

"Yurul is in prison. He says he's going to meet with the Great Khan."
"If that happens, he'll be killed."


and there's no sign of Shut Hell. Which means...
The Great Khan's pavilion is right in front of me...

she managed to take Yurul and flee.

ヒュン

Is he dead?
What happened to your master?
Caw!
Yaraltu...
Caw.
10
What's there?
The burned-out storehouse.
Smoke.

Puff
12
13

...Empty.

...I failed to size her up at a glance.
I took her for a wild dog, good for nothing but chewing bones...
But it seems she serves some higher cause.
Just as we serve the Mongols.

When one has fully comitted one's life,
Their victory is always worth dying for.
We offer our strength and skill to serve the Mongols.
Wild dog.
16
I don't need to hear your answer... Bandit you may be, woman, but if he faced you and lost,
And so I asked you how he met his end.
I'm off balance. Is it from getting kicked in the head...?
Not for a military man.
a worthwhile death is nothing to fear.

You think it's better to make a show of dying?
The man you're talking about died because he got careless.
He was a fool!
So you accepted it as nothing to fear.
A worthy death to you... Salhi.
...Ha ha...
This is why I can't stop laughing at you "military men."

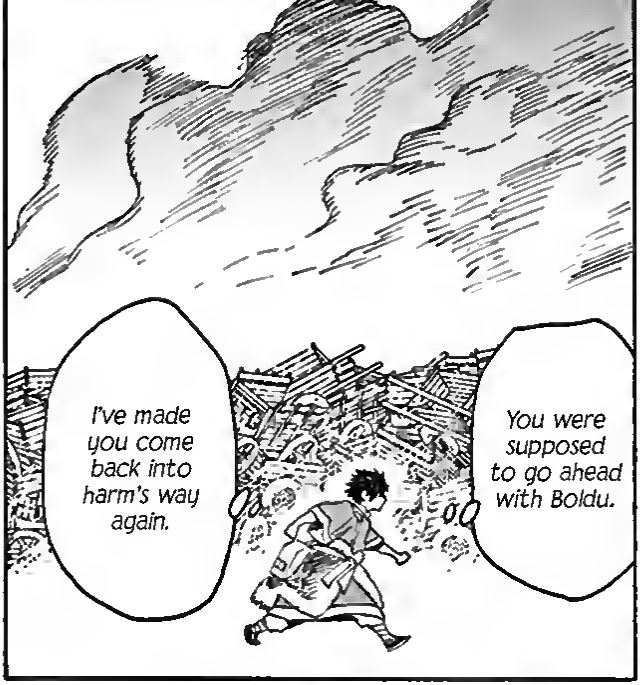
If you're still not through barking, I'll listen.
As I thought, a wild dog.
.....

then I guess his whole life was a dumb waste too!
If he was dumb enough to get eaten by a dog
a tragedy?
So dying tragically makes your whole life

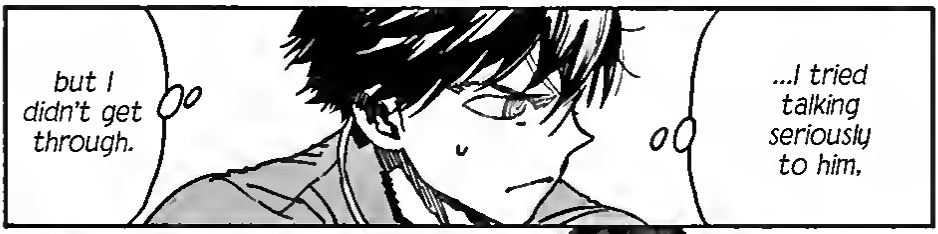
Eating and sleeping and being.
...However you die, life comes first.
That doesn't go away.
Life always gets ahead of death.
How you die can't taint how you lived.
So,

you don't have to worry that you're about to be eaten by a dog too.

...Heh.


I've made you come back into harm's way again.
You were supposed to go ahead with Boldu.

...Shut Hell.

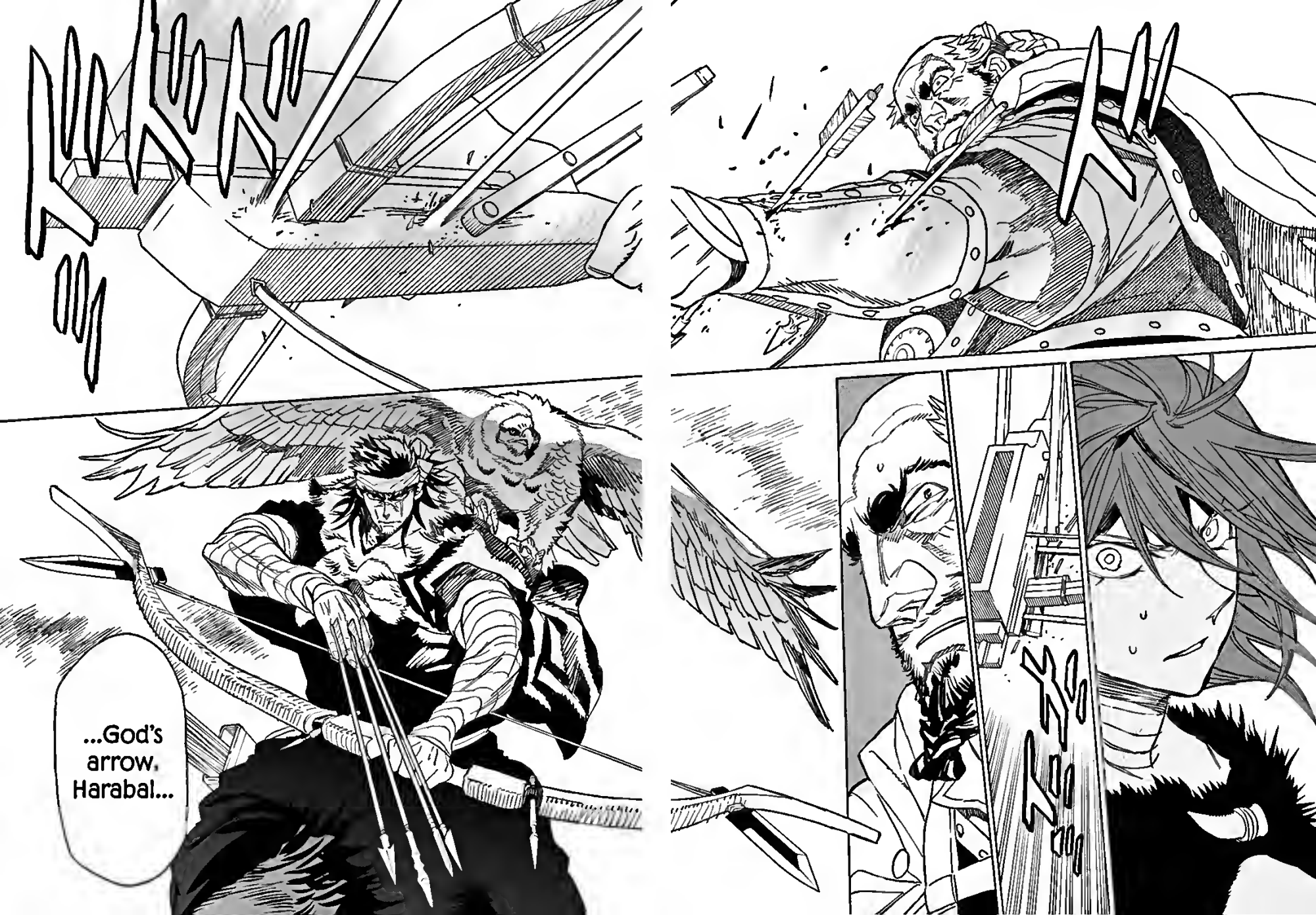

but I didn't get through.
...I tried talking seriously to him.

But
I'm glad I got the chance to tell him.

That's only natural.
I was naive, thinking that he would understand if I just told him.
It wasn't so easy.

the Great Khan is human.
We were able to talk. That means...
The Voice of Jade...!
I have to take the other half back from Nalan.
Now, about that...
I was able to understand that.
23
skid

Yurul!

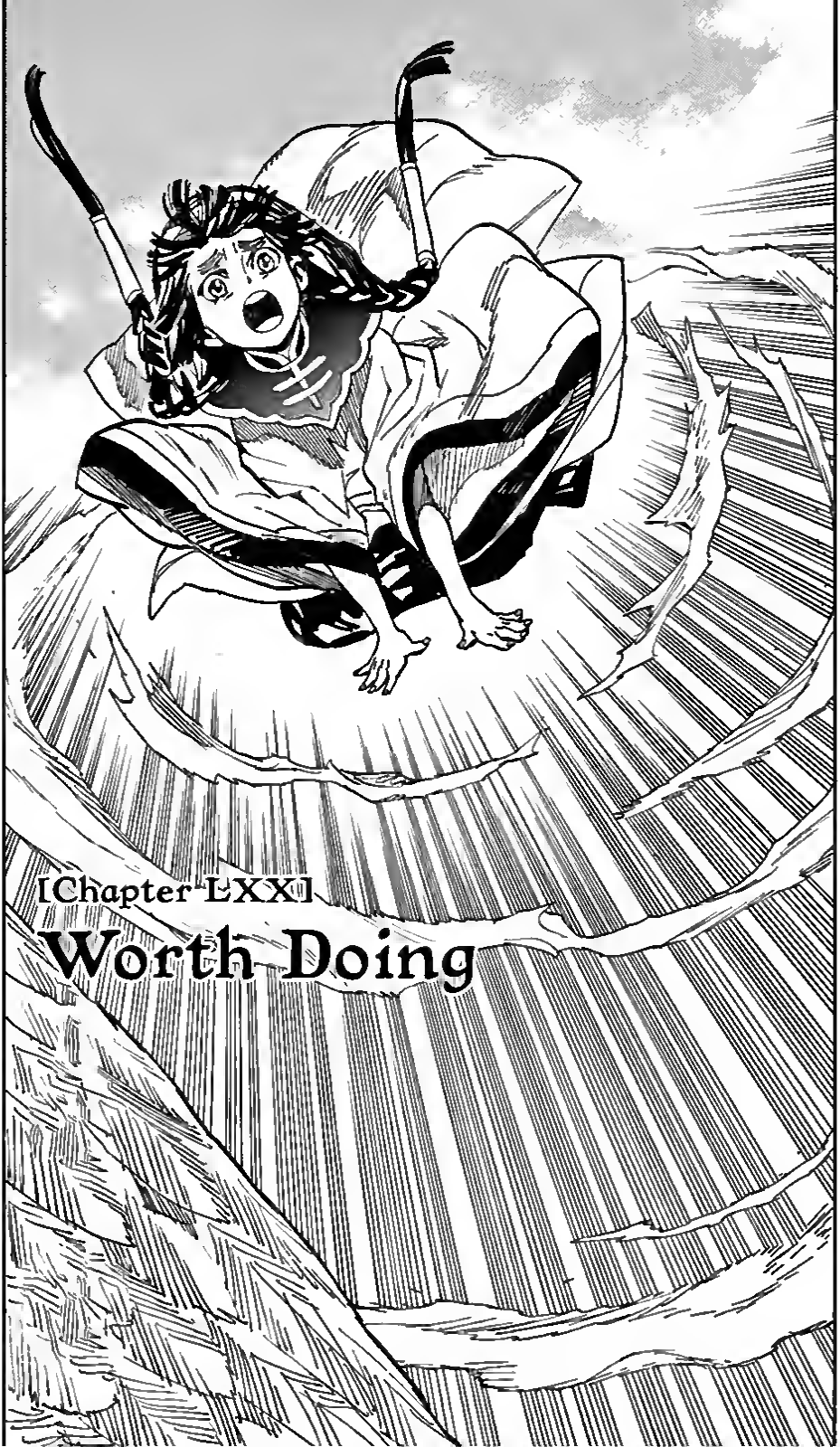

...God's arrow, Harabal...

....They're all here.
All that's left is to let the army know where they are.
Come, Melumi.
We're done here.
The two bandits won't let the Great Khan escape.
Sholga is wounded.
...It was a long time.

Because my lord... is the true Khan of the new Mongols.
We'll return with Tolui.
We can't let anything happen to him.
ｱﾅﾀ…
Tolui...
It all begins here.

What do you think you're doing?
...Melumi!

this is where it ends.
Nalan,



[Chapter LXX]

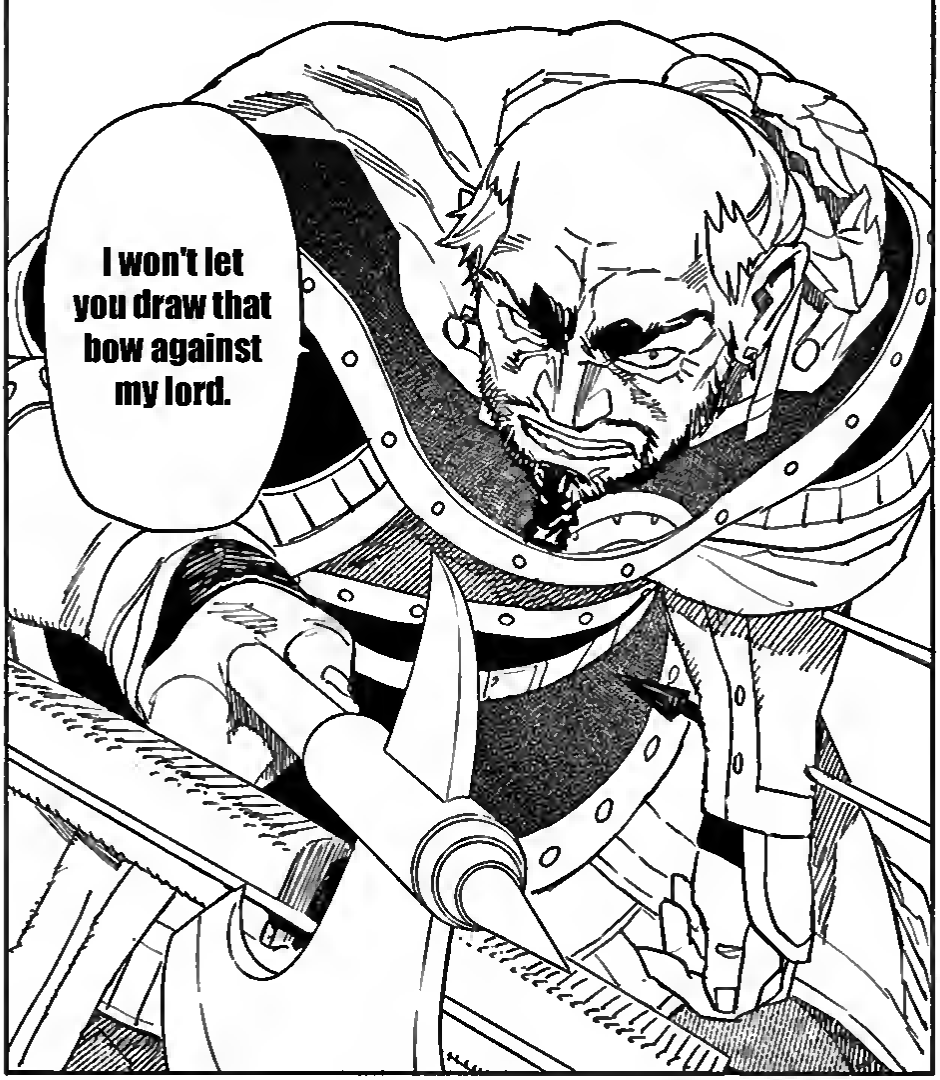
Worth Doing

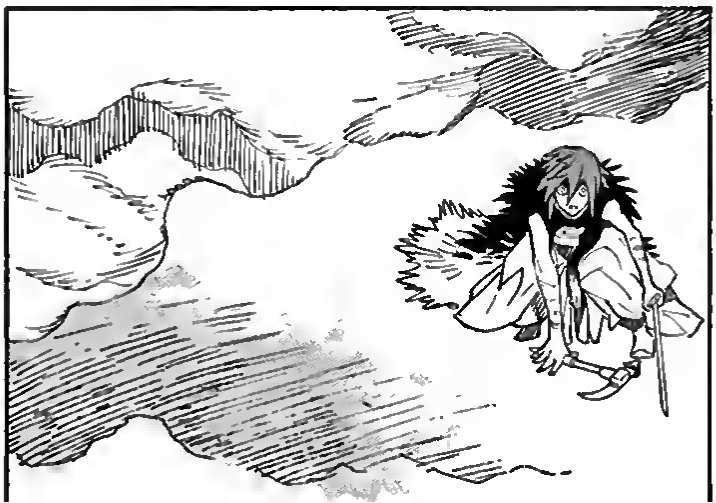
Melumi! What do you think you're doing?
The horse!
Split
It's that khoomei that travels through the ground.

!?

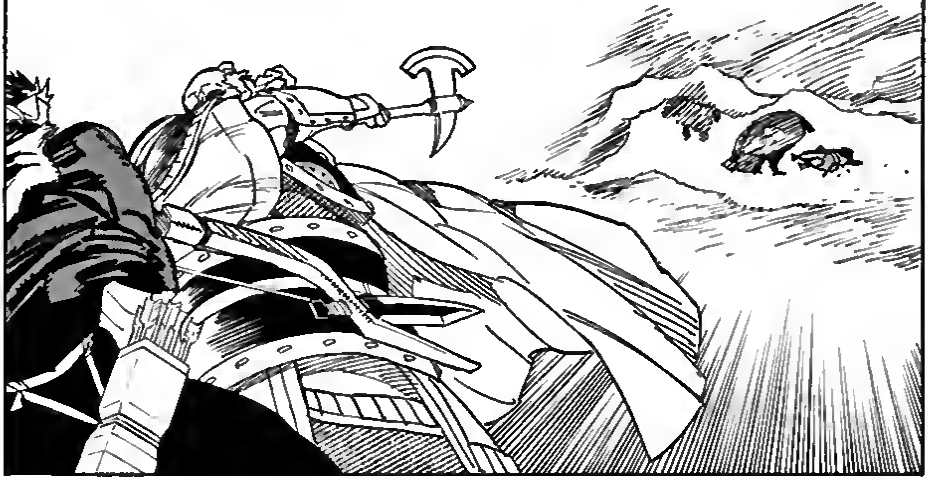
What happened?
How could it suddenly fall asleep?
!
This song.
It's the same voice as the dog call...

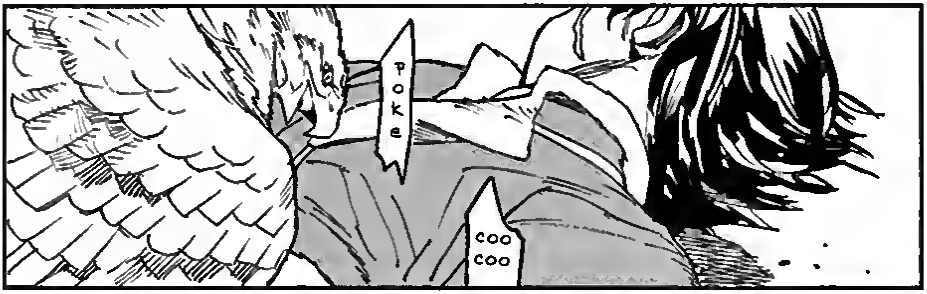
God's Arrow Harabal.

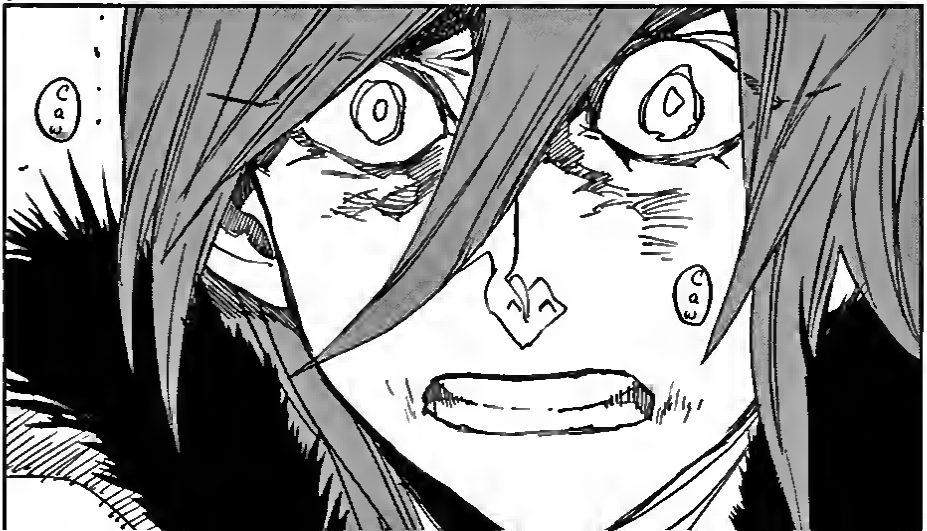

I won't let you draw that bow against my lord.

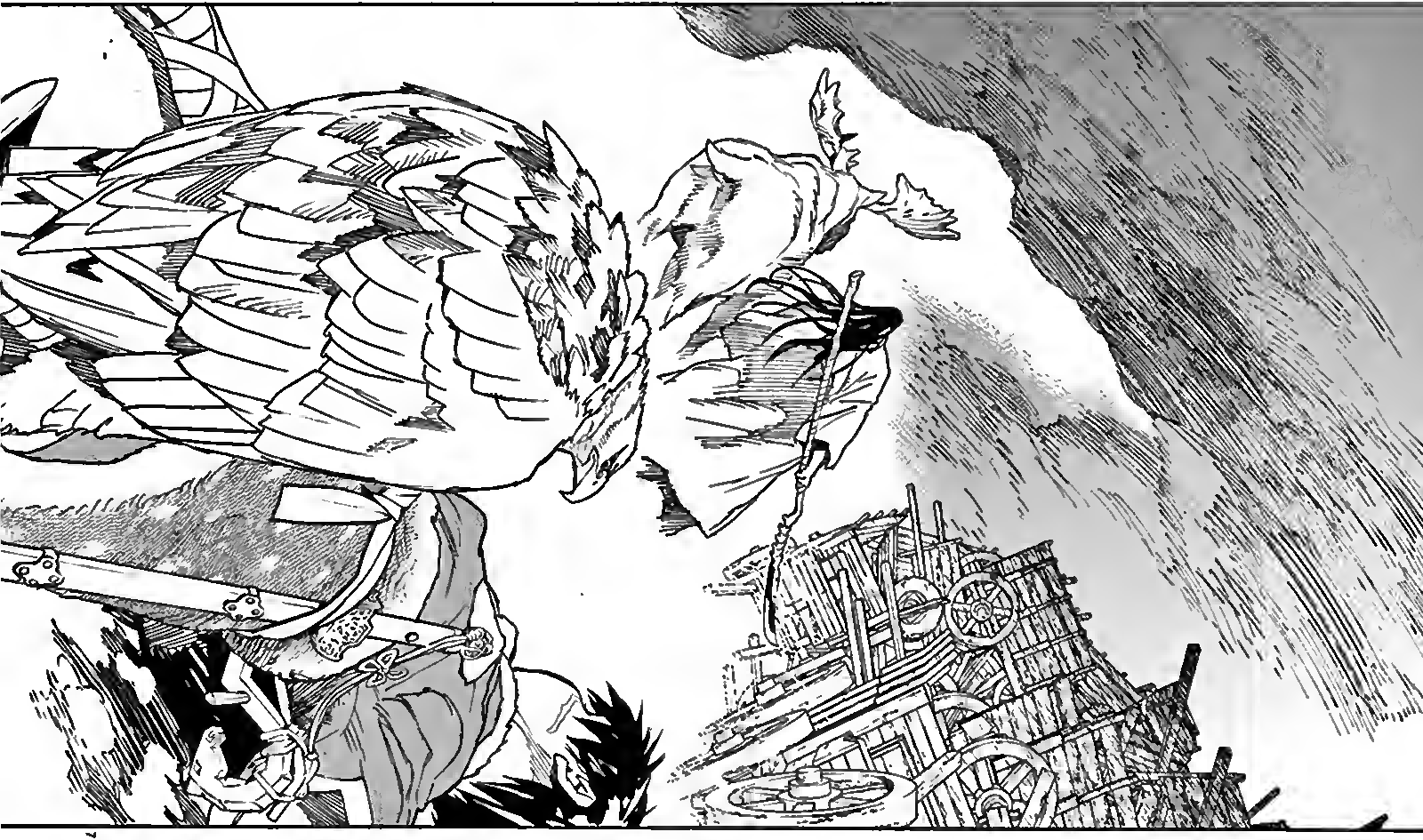


Ugh




poke
coo
coo



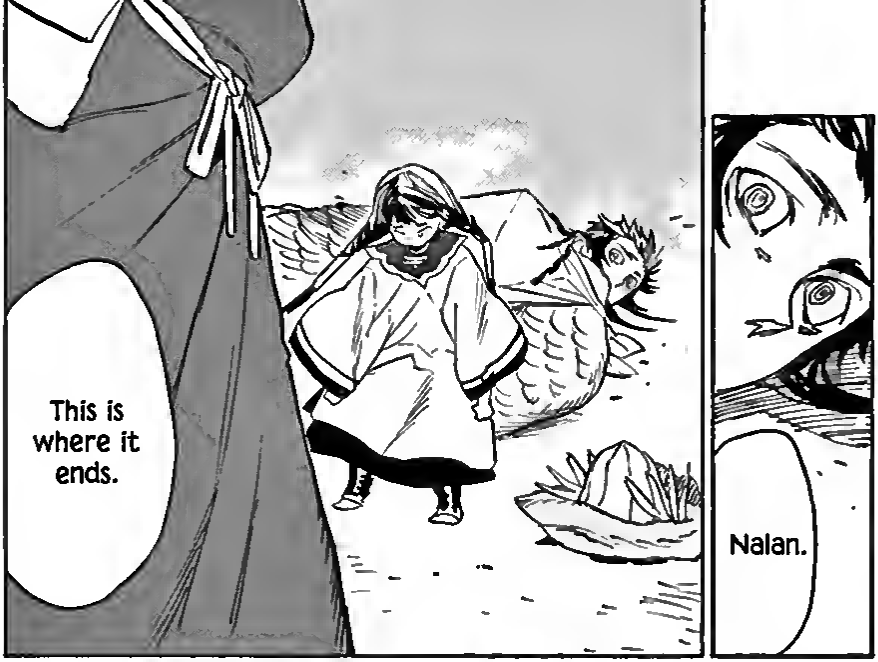


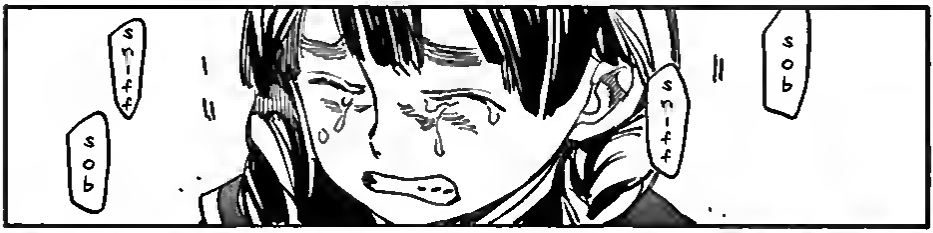
twist
10
These... are the claws and fangs of a tiger...
He's no wild dog.

So this is where I die.
It's... worth it.

...He's keeping his arms up with sheer willpower;
just barely avoiding a fatal blow...

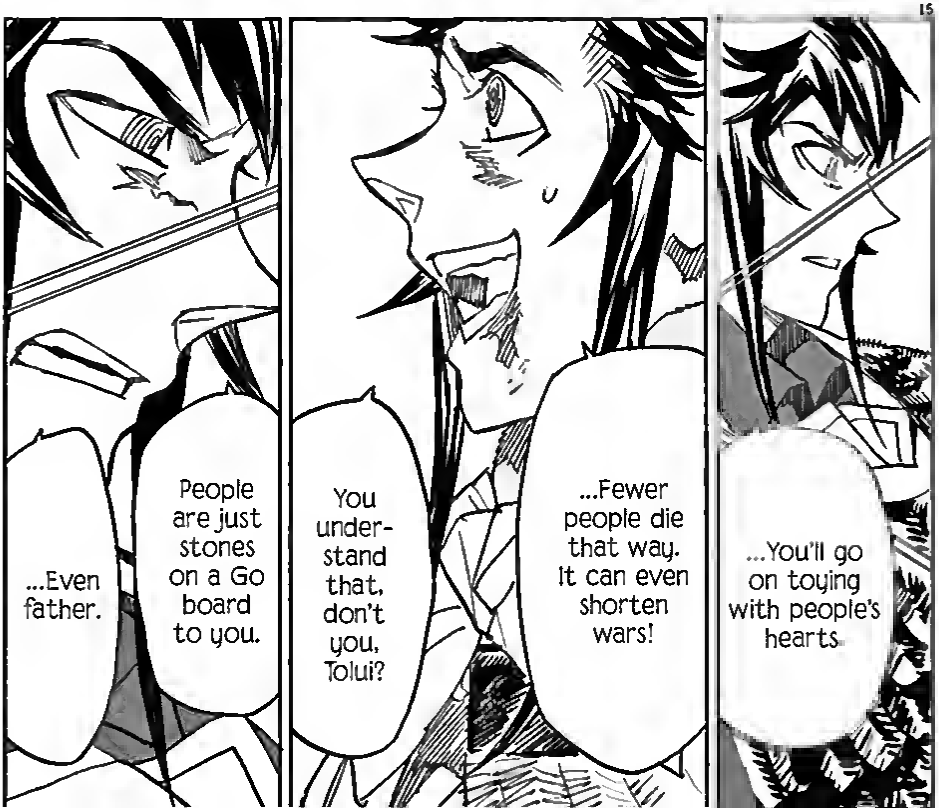
by struggling even on the brink of death?
Does this man intend to make me waste arrows


This is where it ends.
Nalan.


sob
sniff
sniff
sob

Tolui.
she can't do anything.
...She's just a girl;
.....
That's a waste of stones, Tolui.

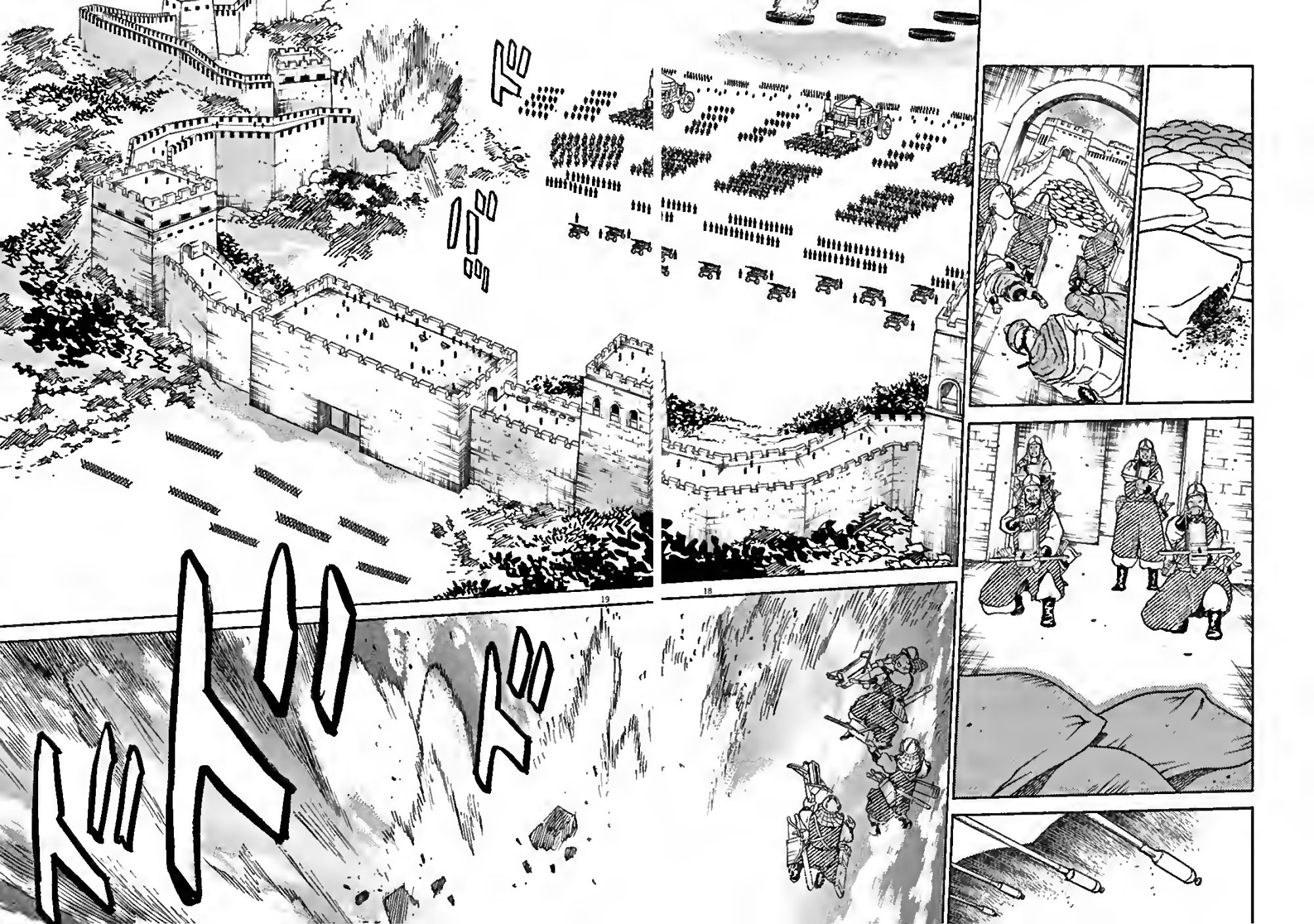
I've always served you until now.
Let me live for your new Mongols.


...Even father.
People are just stones on a Go board to you.
You understand that, don't you, Tolui?
...Fewer people die that way. It can even shorten wars!
...You'll go on toying with people's hearts.

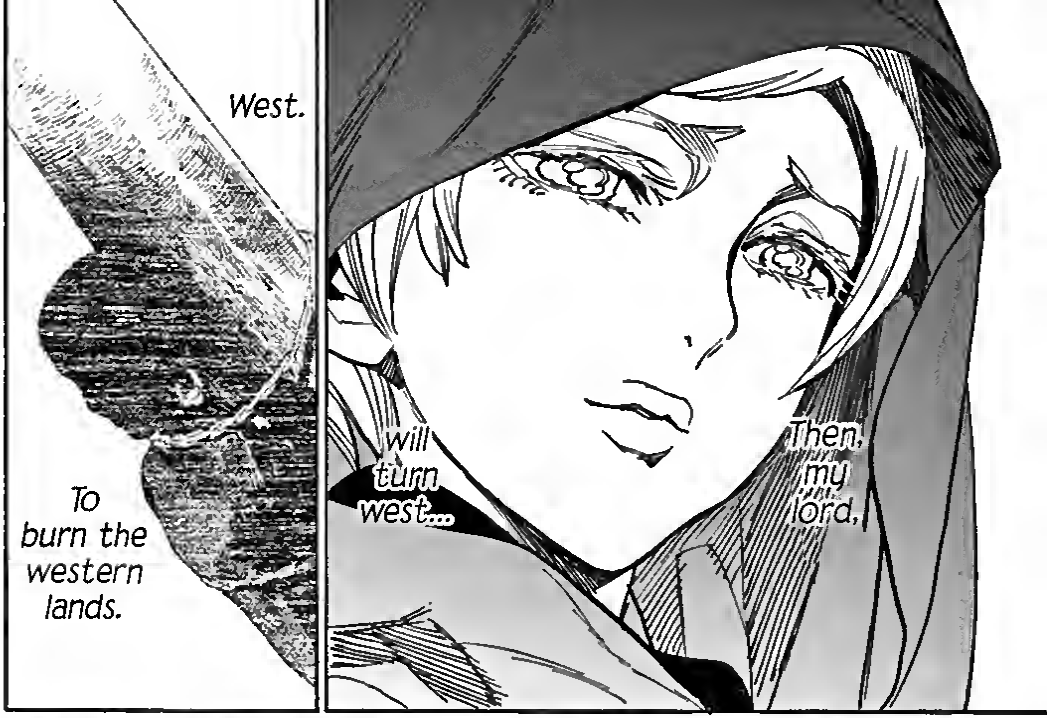
Did you plan to use that boy...?
Likely our brother... and the rightful heir?
Probably some day... even me.

Toluí.
I've lived only for you.
...I can't believe it.

If you say the Mongols are blemished,
...we ought to have covered it together.
...then none must know of it.
The Mongols will go on as they are now.
As father's Mongols.



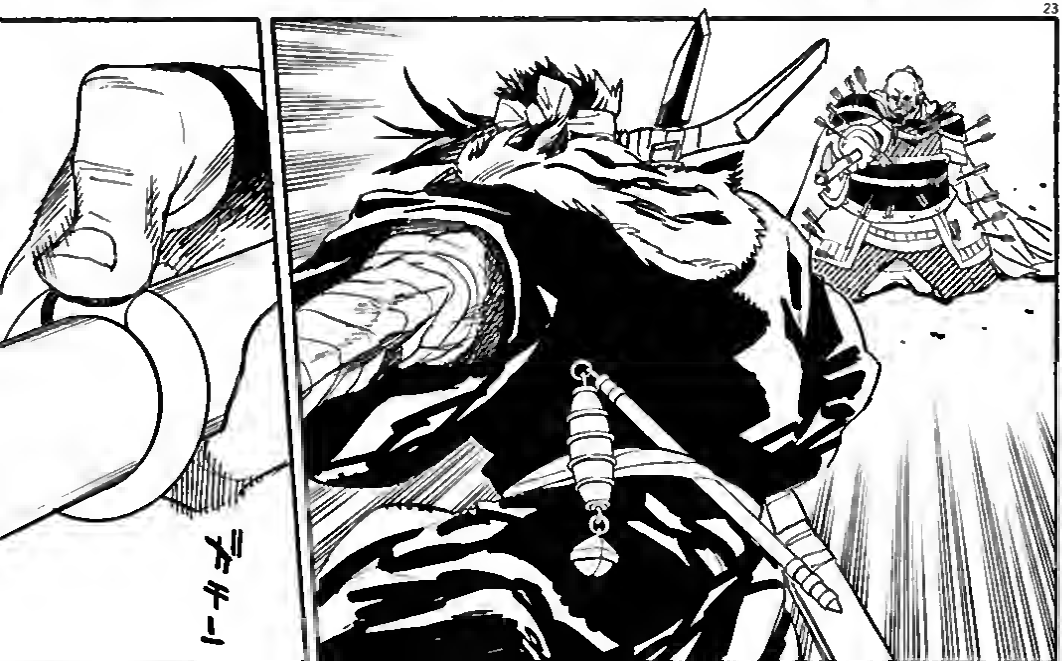
Juyong-guan has—
It can't be.
fallen...?
20
21
It's open.
A huge hole to the Jin capital.
Mongol camp, rear line–
The Mongols will spread to the farthest east.
MONGOLS
WESTERN XIA
JUYONGGUAN
ZHONGDU
JIN
We'll take the capital at Zhongdu, and this vast country will become nourishment for the Mongols.


West.
To burn the western lands.
Then, my lord,
will turn west...

Smoke ...?
.....!

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

This is our lord's path of conquest!
I've been re-warded.
Did you see that, Salhi?

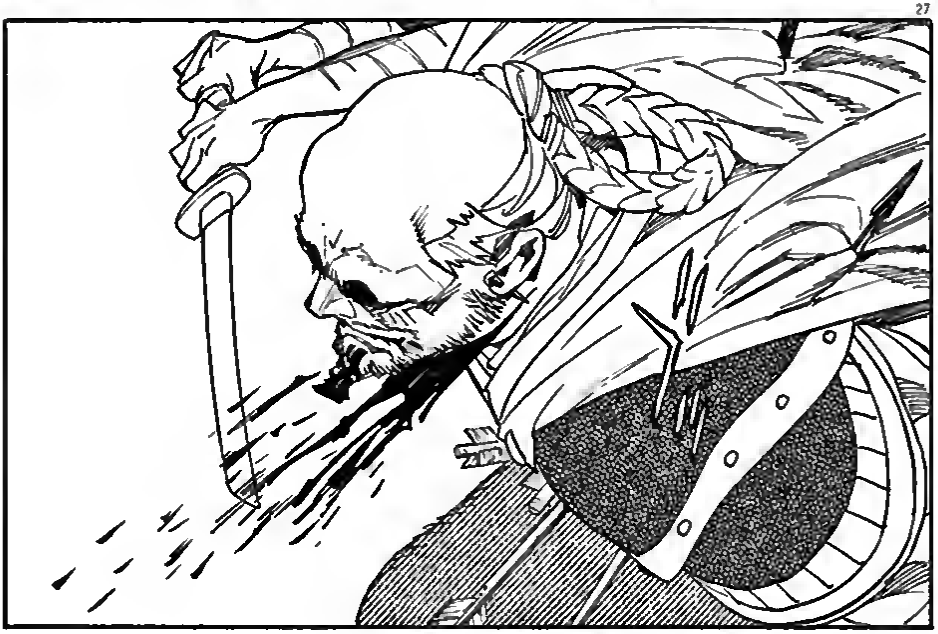

ズガーン

24
snap

...Devour me.
Lord, young lord,
you have doubtless already left this place.
However, tiger,
the Mongols will devour Jin in the end, and grow stronger still.
He soaked up my arrows like a bog.
...and he smiles like he's won.
Tiger, your claws cannot breach a castle wall.

My lord, and the Mongols, are the new era.
Even a tigers fangs cannot rend the march of history.

27



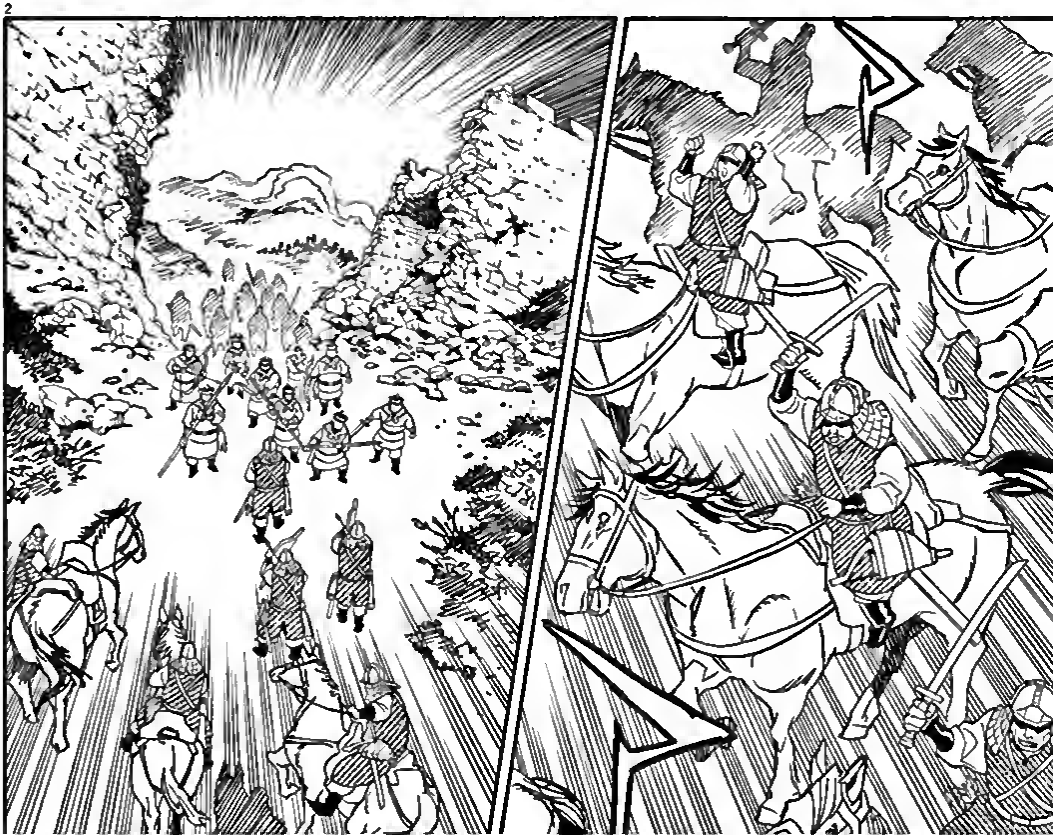
29
28

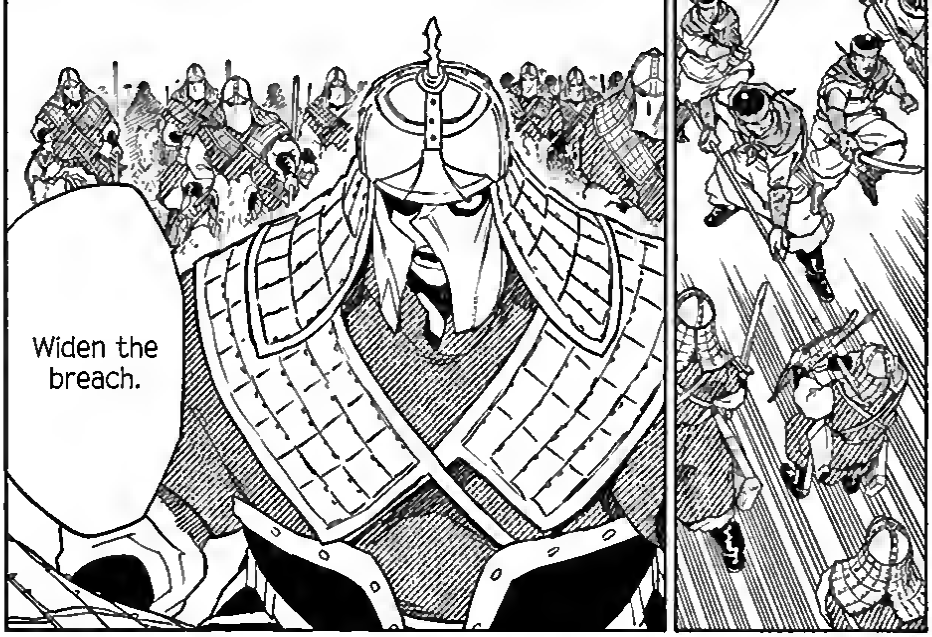
chatter
chatter
chatter

[Chapter LXXI]

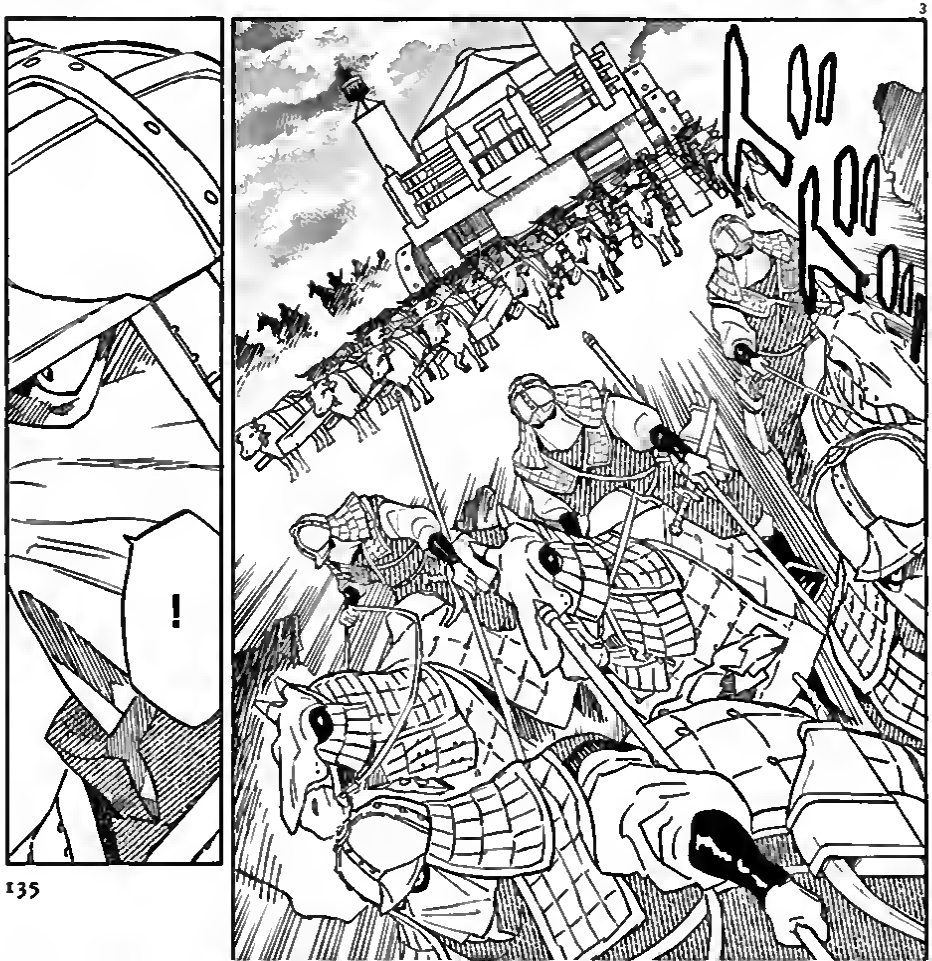
An Arrow

2

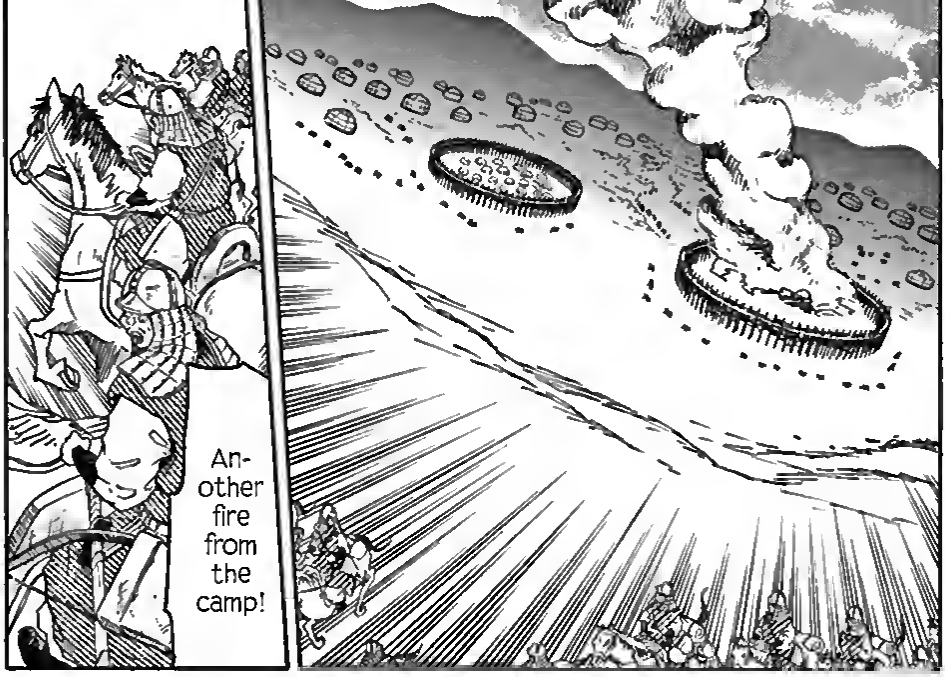


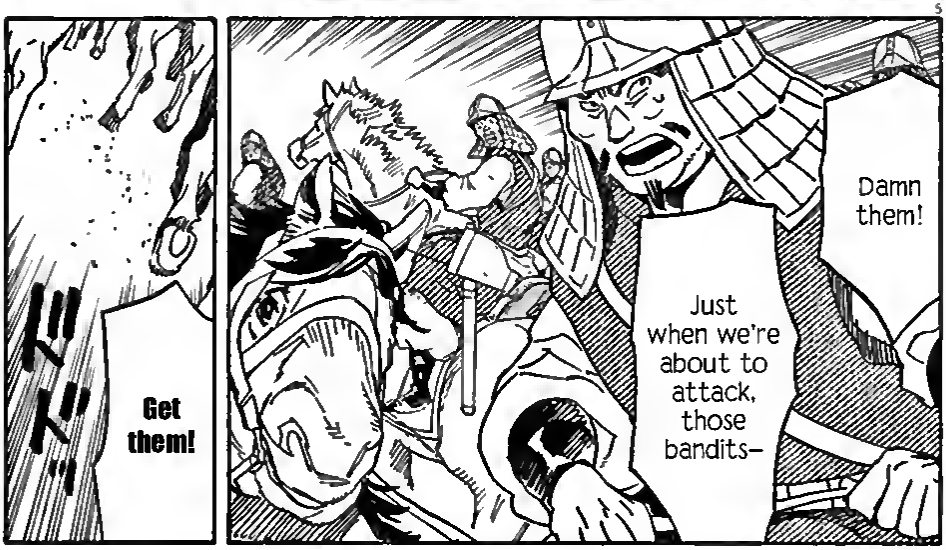


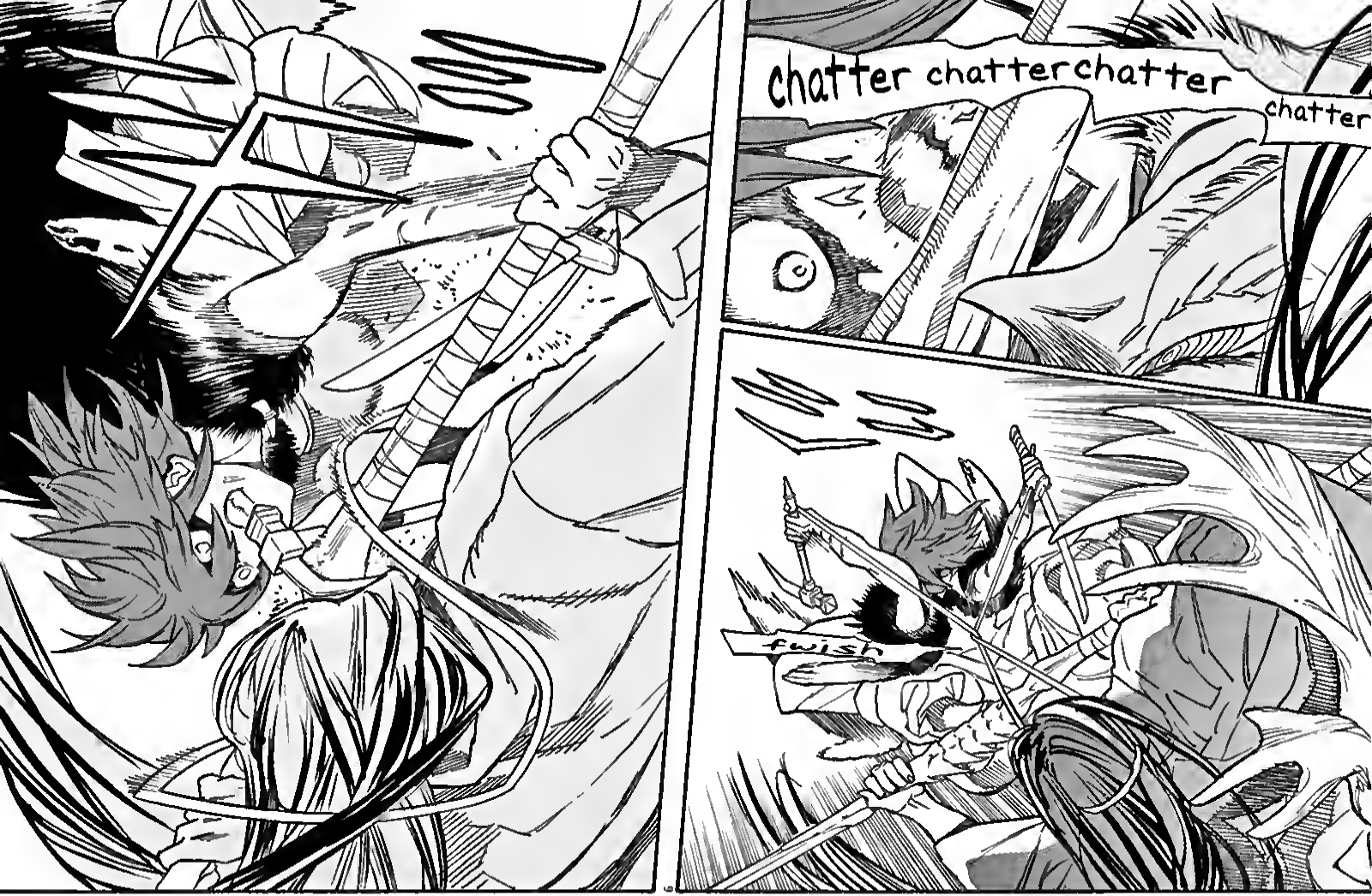
3



That ox...
was killed by an arrow from behind!
Almost as if
it passed through the yurt
from the back...!


An-
other
fire
from
the
camp!


Get
them!
Just
when we're
about to
attack,
those
bandits–
Damn
them!


chatter chatterchatter
chatter
twist

chatter
Now, he's...
What difference has your killing made so far?
Did Yurul extol banditry, then?
chatter
chatter
chatter
So, the Tangut bandit woman... "Shut Hell."
...Cold.
He's gone from this world.

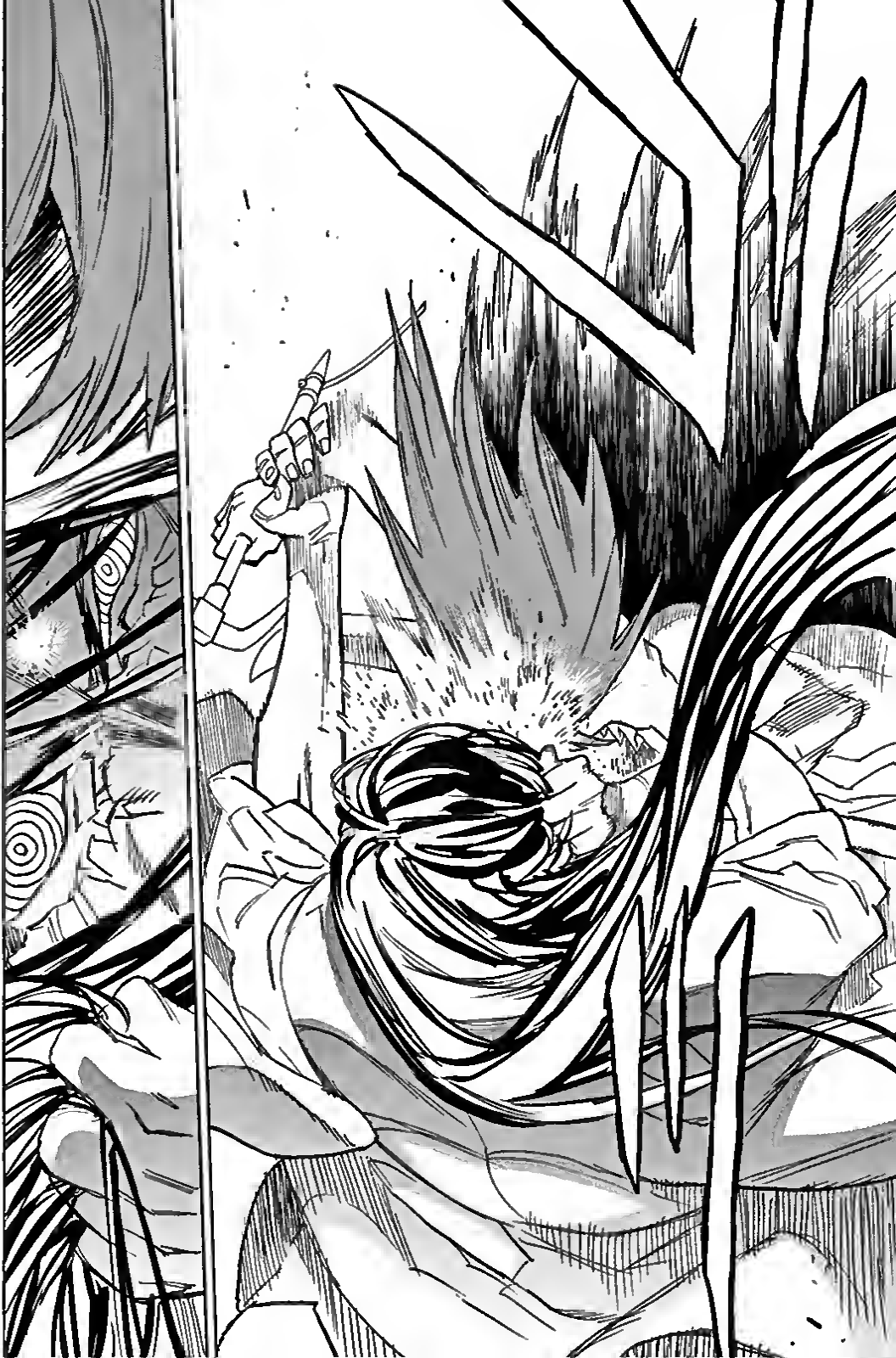
If killing me will bring something back to life, then try it.
...That won't bring anything back.
He's the one who taught me that, but—

snap
It won't come back.
You killed the river.

You killed the trees and soil its waters would have kept alive.
...You killed the sunshine.

Steady your voice.
Turn your rage into fire.
Burn as far as the eye can see.
If you wish it,

the burnt fields can run on forever.



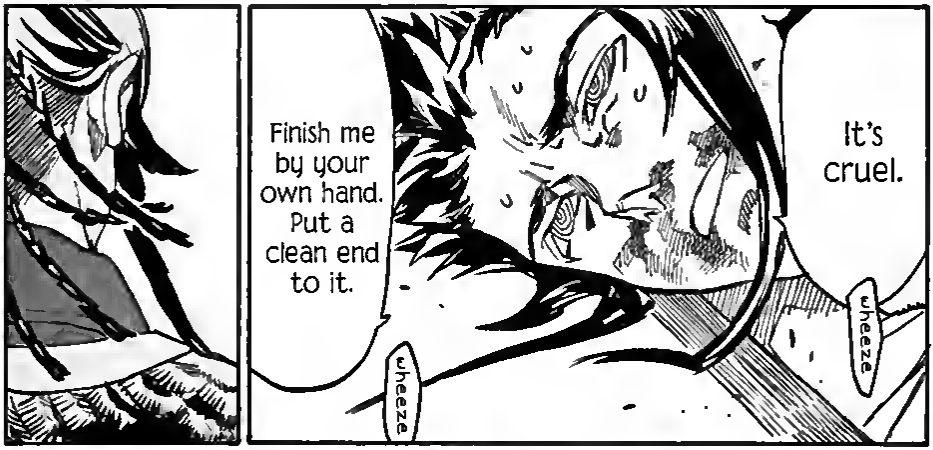
that I would see you die one day.
...I had a feeling
Of course, there was a time I meant to kill you myself.
So, Mongol soldiers saw the smoke and came running.
ドドドドドド

20
So you're here, Harabal...

Aside from him, I'll be bringing a few with me.
I missed.
But he can't escape on foot.
It'll be getting lively over there, Yurul.

rush!!

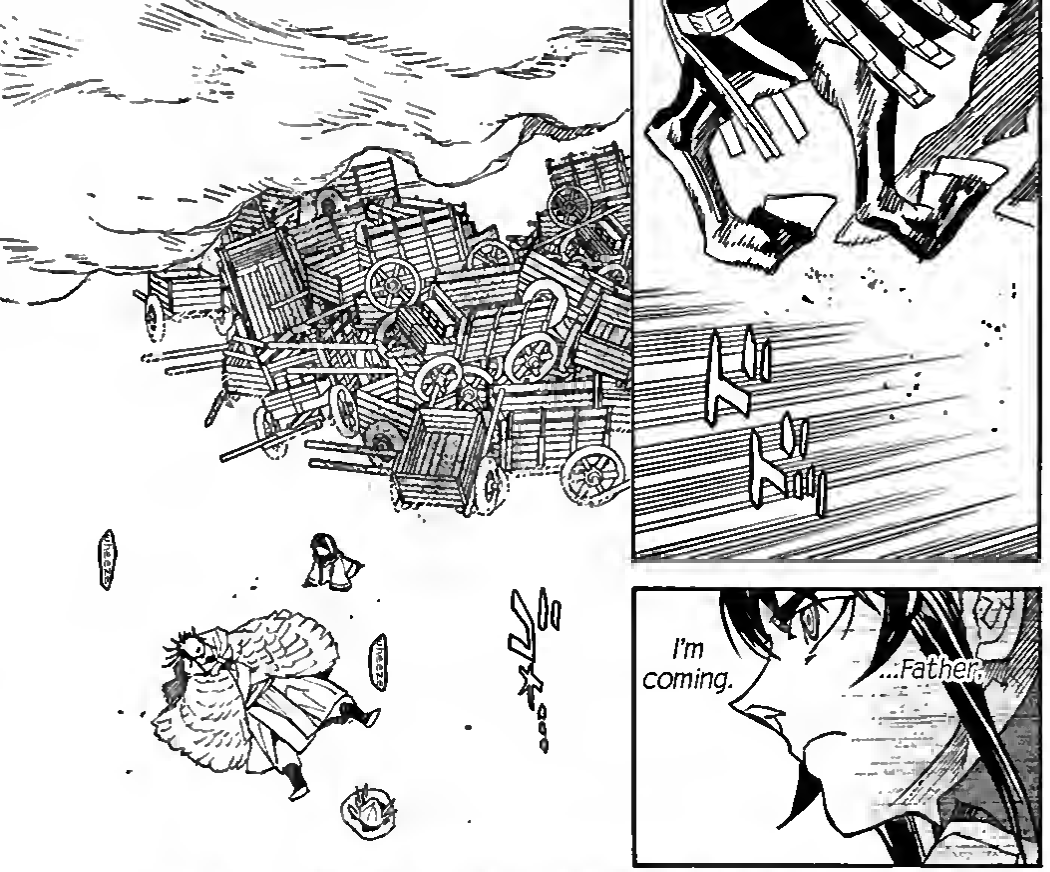
Please, don't go.


It's cruel.
wheeze
Finish me by your own hand. Put a clean end to it.
wheeze

whimper
...I can't.

Nalan, I leave you to soldiers who don't know us by sight.
They'll come raging through now that bandits have set fire to the camp again.
I can't do it.
wheeze
Tolui.
wheeze
Without this to show your status as the Hawk of the Khan, you are no one...
not even the crown prince's shadow.
The soldiers will kill you as one of the bandits who burned their camp.
I never had a shadow.
I was alone from the start.

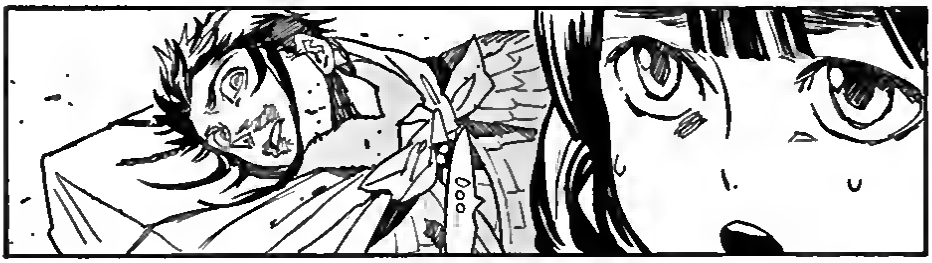
Tolui
!!
No one knows about you, and nothing will be written about you.
You never were, Nalan.


sneeze
sneeze
I'm coming.
...Father.

Lord Nalan,
Ha.
hack cough
Ah,
Ah ha ha.
cough
Ah ha ha ha ha.
sneeze
Ha...
sneeze

at the very end, I betrayed him.
Melumi,
you've gone mad from too much sorrow.
26
ハッ…
Who's there?
I didn't give him this; I didn't even tell him about it...
Ha ha ha.

Were you the ones who set the fire?
You don't look like one of out soldiers. What are you doing here?


...

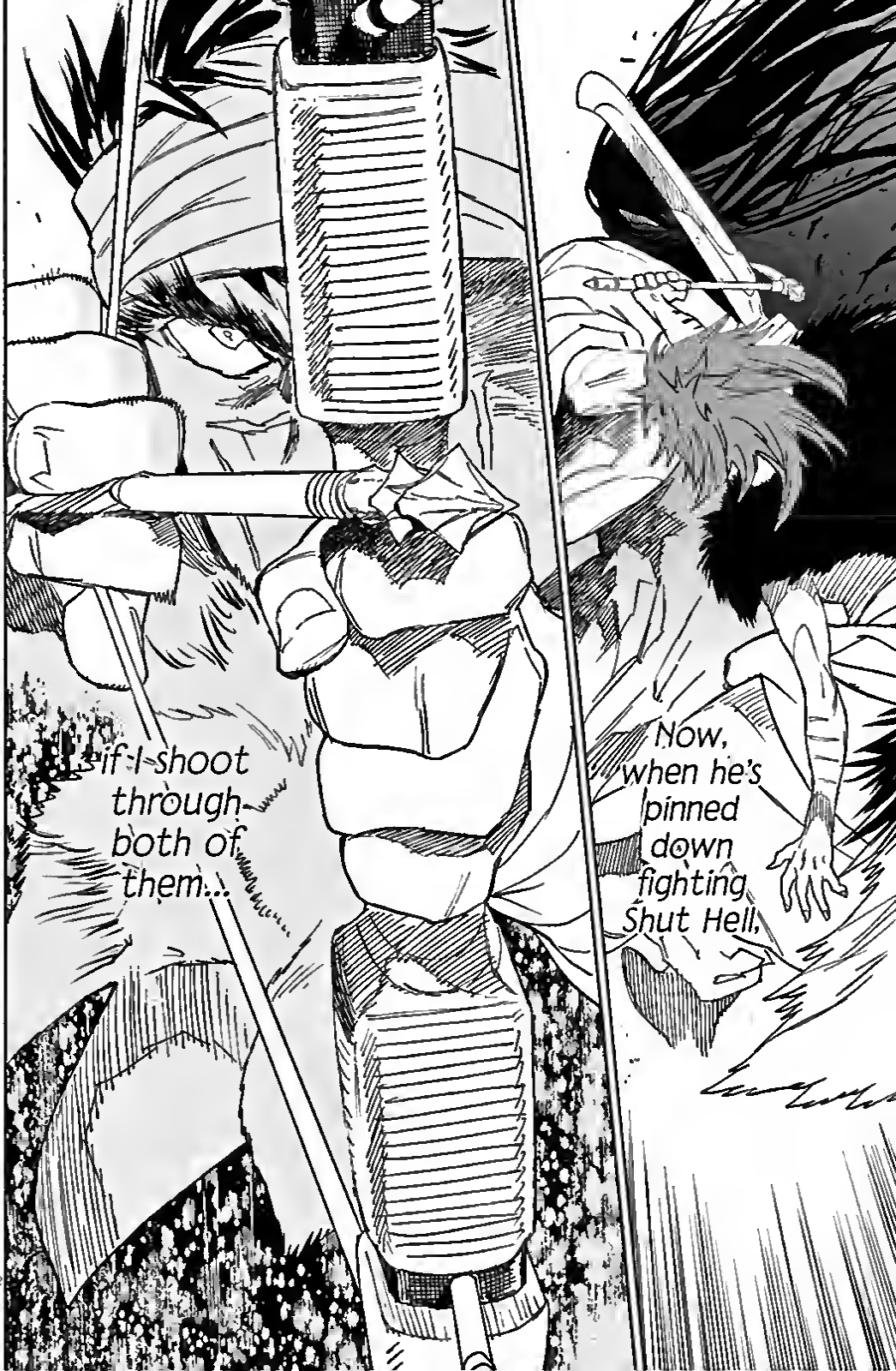
!

Harabal of the Tsog!?
So, you mean to have your revenge on the Mongols here and now!

Now's the time to kill him!
But look there! They may call him God's Arrow, but his arrows are just about used up.

Two arrows left.

...Got him.

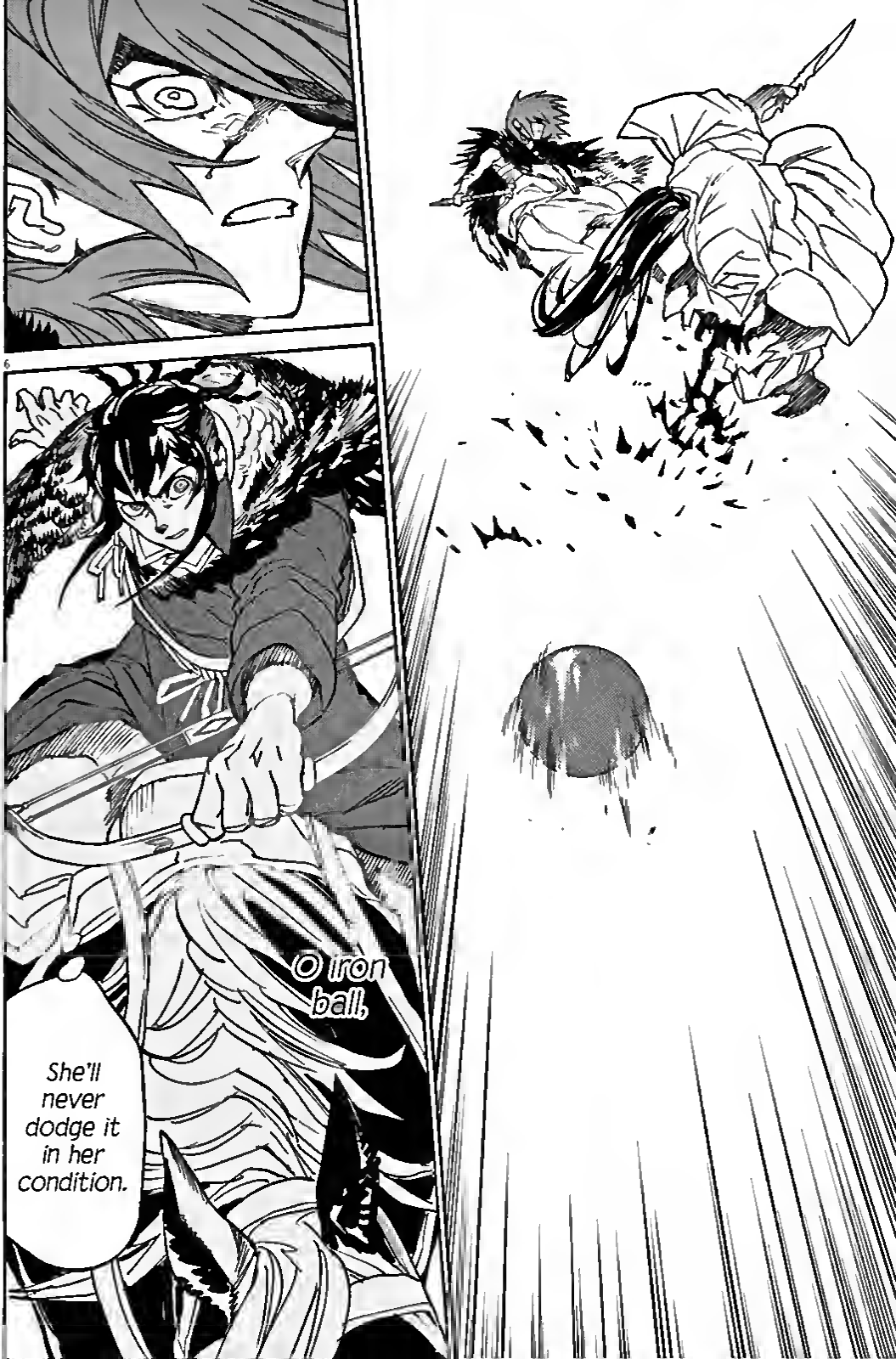

if I shoot through both of them...
Now, when he's pinned down fighting Shut Hell,

[Chapter LXXIII] Ashes

The Great Khan's head is mine.
I'll shoot him through the chest, along with Shut Hell.
This is my only chance.

"If you let me live, I'll come for your head, and those jade slabs, too."
"...This will be your only chance to kill me."
"Then you'll have to stay alive while you chase me!"
Why didn't you live?

You and
Shut Hell?
Father
...!
Damned
bandit!


O iron ball,
She'll never dodge it in her condition.

strike through the brigand's face.

splat
splat
splat

You were foolish, little brother.
Father!
You must have immediate treatment!

Return to the main camp. Guard him well.
... Tolui,
I saw god's arrow.
Talk will only worsen your wounds.

You will see it too.

ヒュー
12

Fire!

ドドド…
He must be out of arrows.
That's "God's Arrow," Harabal the Tiger!...
...We shook him off.

Traitors and bandits
are not fit to touch so much as a drop of this blood.
15
Father is a dream.
A pair of gigantic wings, soaring ever higher, that took small, squabbling nomadic tribes, scorned by the Jin and Song,
and united them into a single Mongolian people.

Any
cost,
...At any cost,

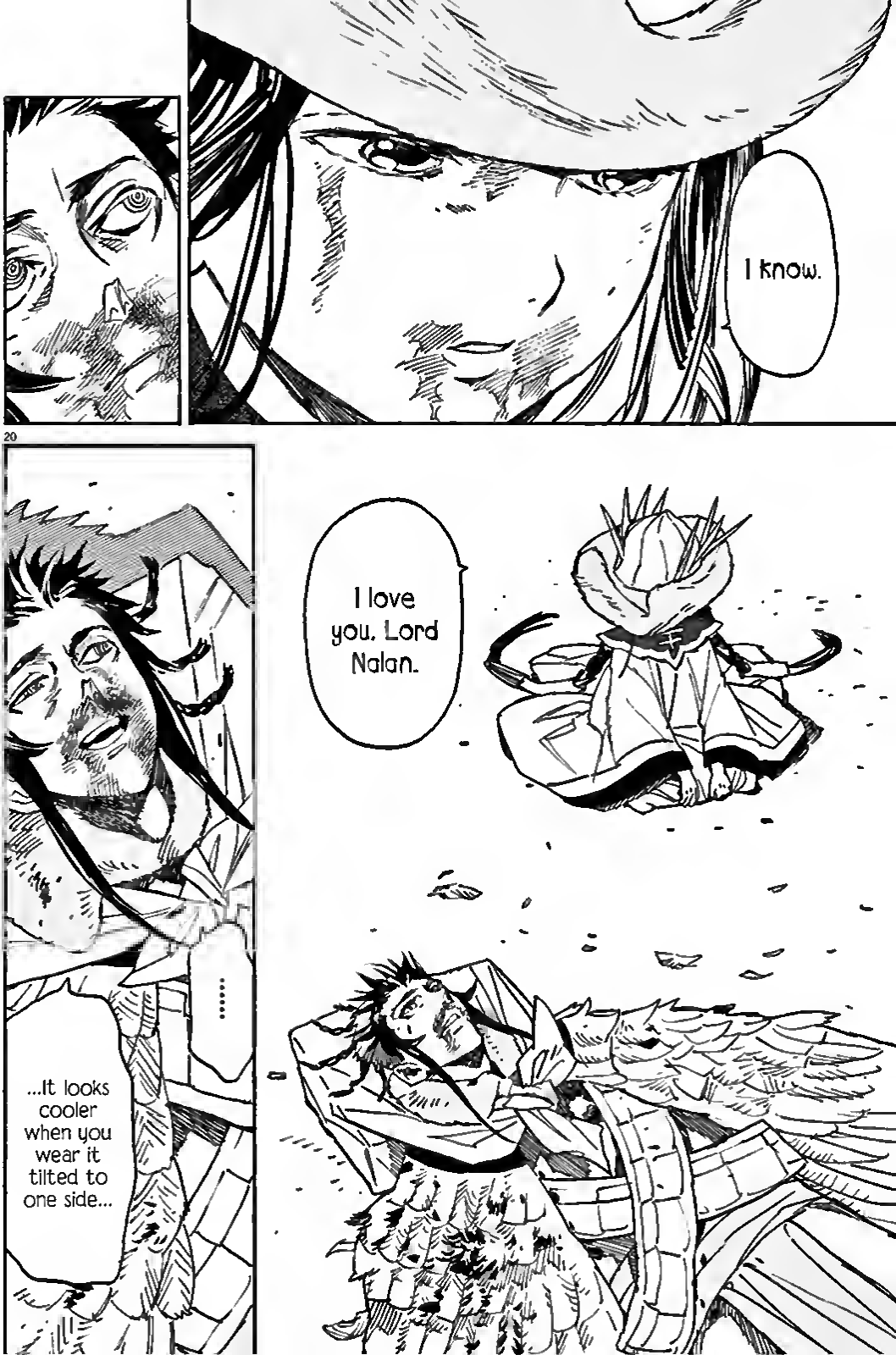
"Tolui."

The Mongols must not lose the Great Khan.
Not ever.

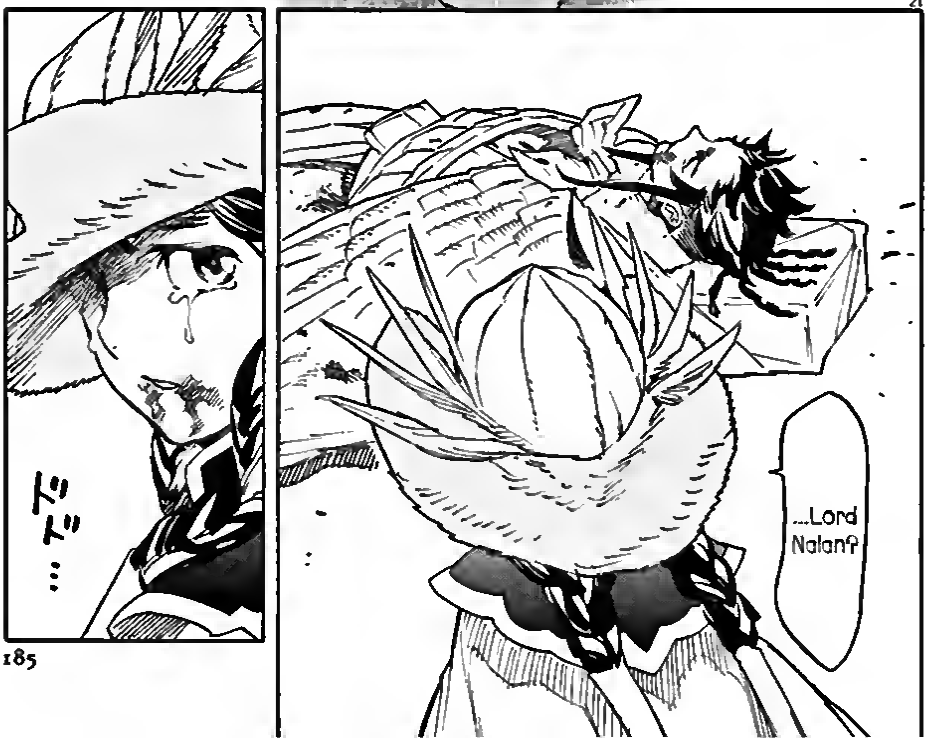
wheeze
wheeze
Melumi,
Ignore it! Dismount and kill them!
The horses!

wheeze
wheeze
wheeze
wheeze
I won't.
go now.
wheeze
wheeze
I won't.
18
Then take this.
wheeze
I want to give you some-thing.
wheeze
If you break them up and sell them, a little at a time, you'll have enough to live on.
Carry these tablets away for me.

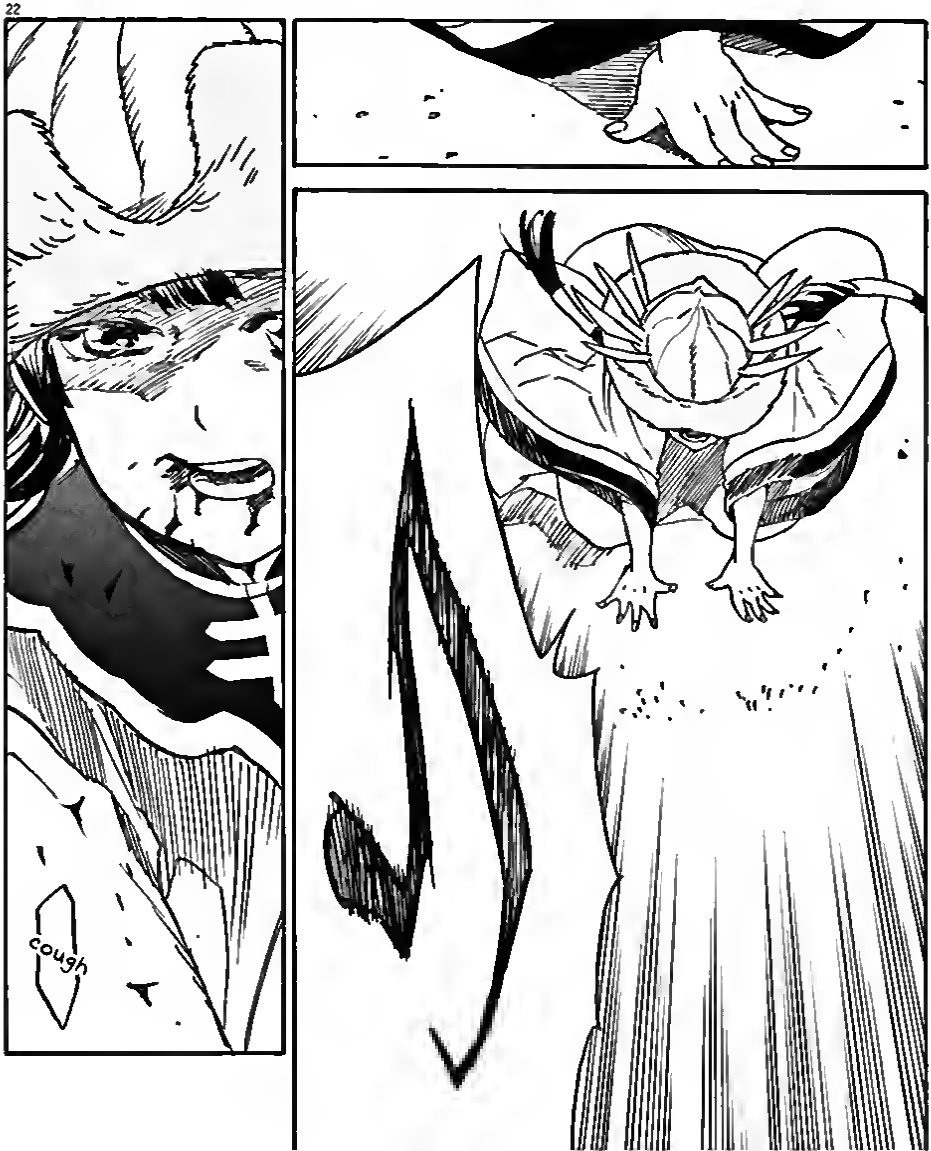
wheeze
wheeze
I can only be happy at your side.
Go be happy some-where on your own.
ポン
19
You don't even know what hap-piness is.
Ha ha!
that took your village from you.
Or who it was

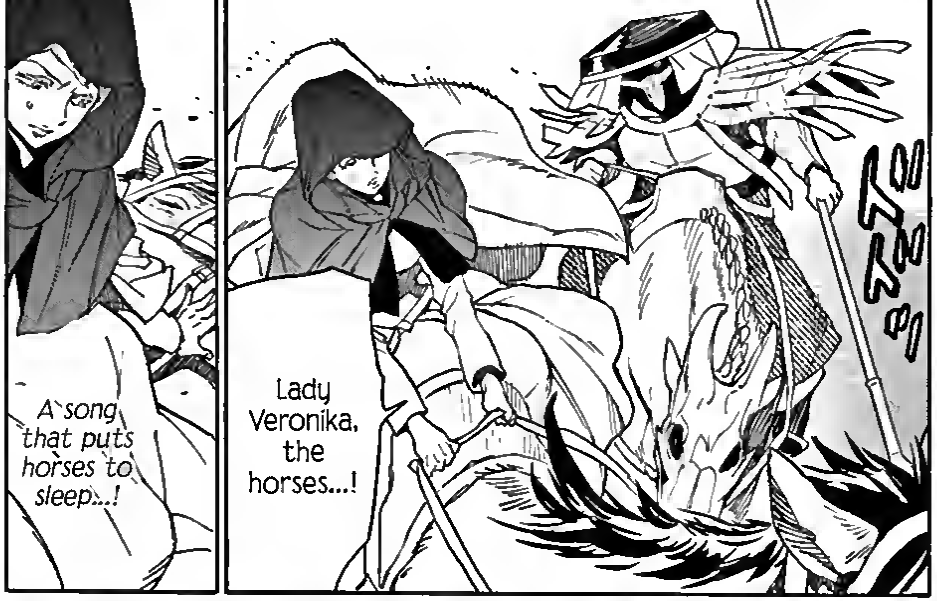

I know.
20
I love you, Lord Nalan.
...It looks cooler when you wear it tilted to one side...

Are you saying it would have proved something...?
"Nalan, if everyone writes down what they do and feel..."
"You never were."


ドド…
...Lord Nalan?

He won't let me...
stay at his side.
ドドド…


cough


A`song that puts horses to sleep...!
Lady Veronika, the horses...!
ヒヒーン!!

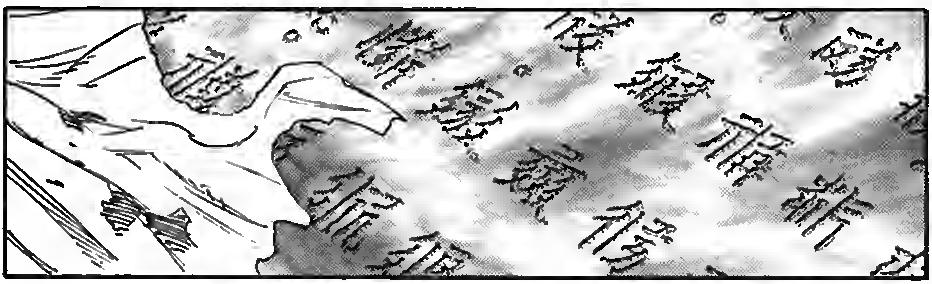
That girl, and Nalan,
are up ahead...

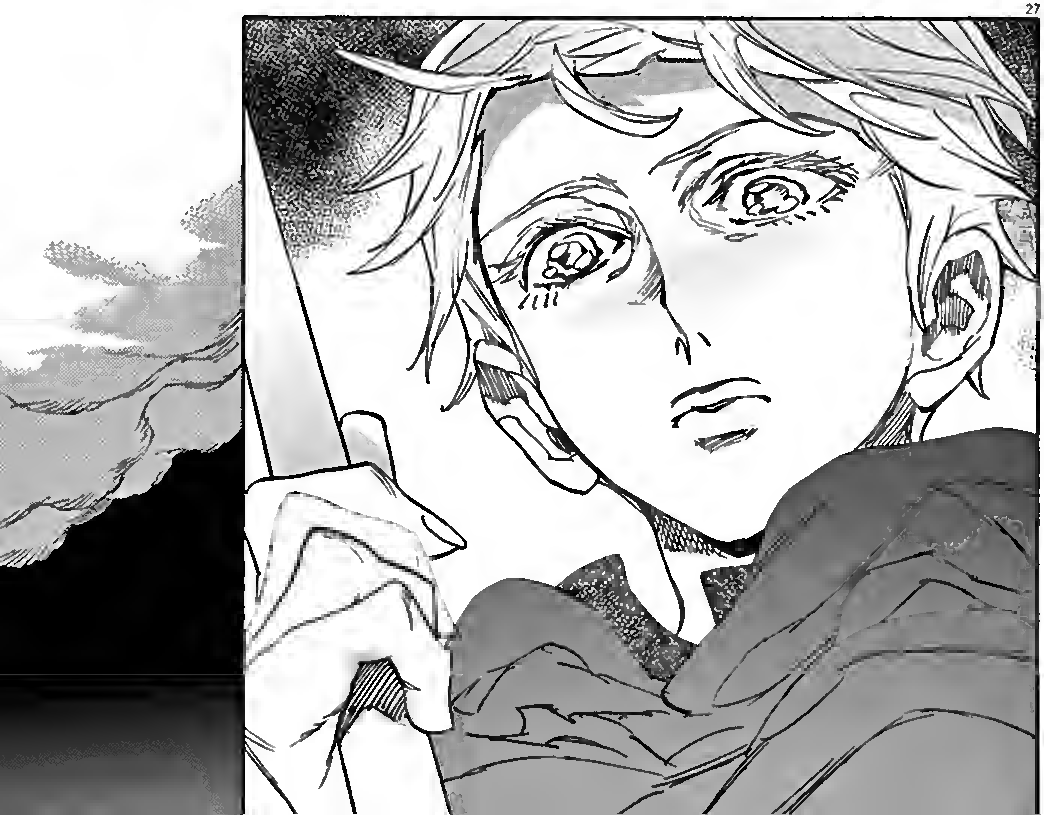
Lady Veroni-ka!
...Well, she wasn't exactly a pet bird.
So, he made her sing until her throat burst.

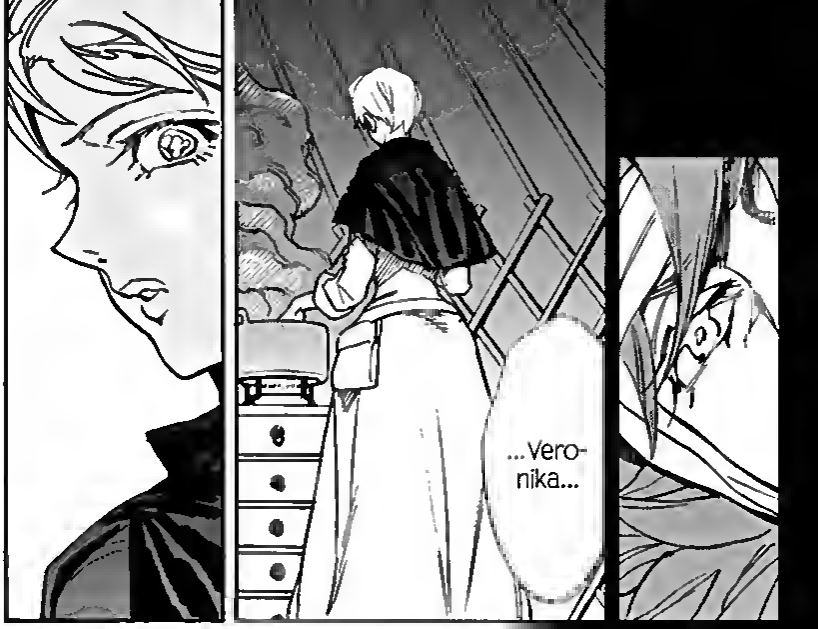
He's still breathing! Only barely, but–
his highness, Crown Prince Tolui...?
Could it be...

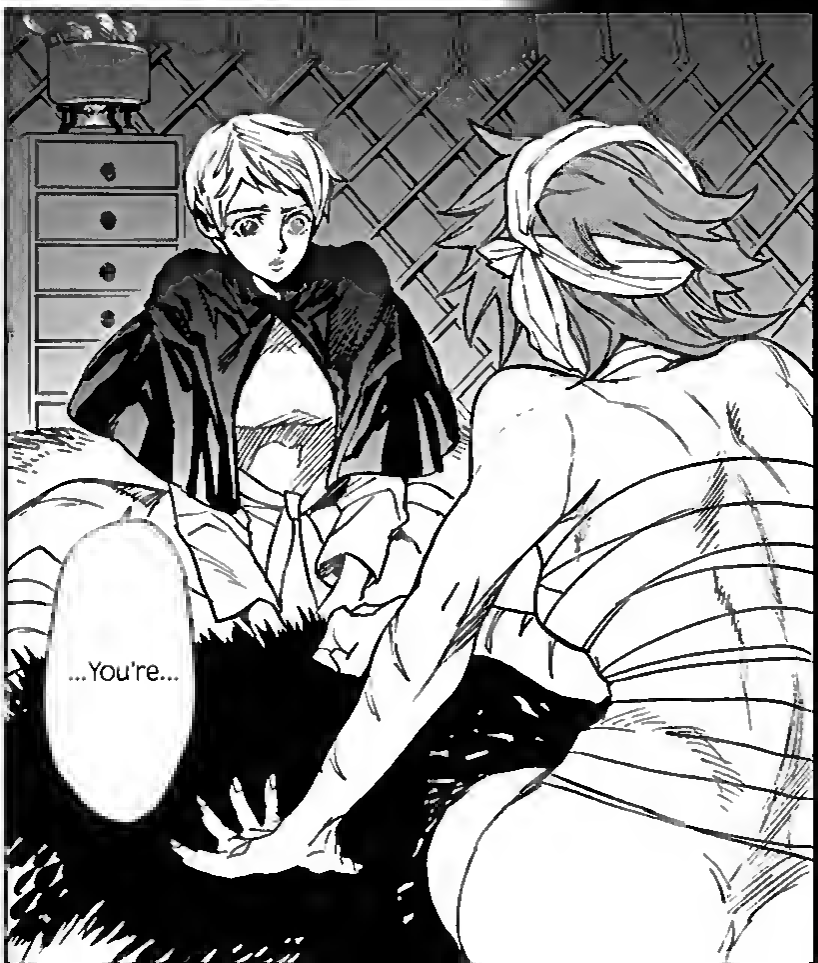
ズズ

An imposter.
He's nothing but a bandit.






...Vero-
nika...


...You're...

What...

ビク

!

32

What should I do,

Vero-nika?

To be continued in [Shut Hell] Volume 12...

【手伝ってくれた人々】
井口文枝
大川亜由美
椿 克彦
前嶋重機
松山由希
渡邉忠司

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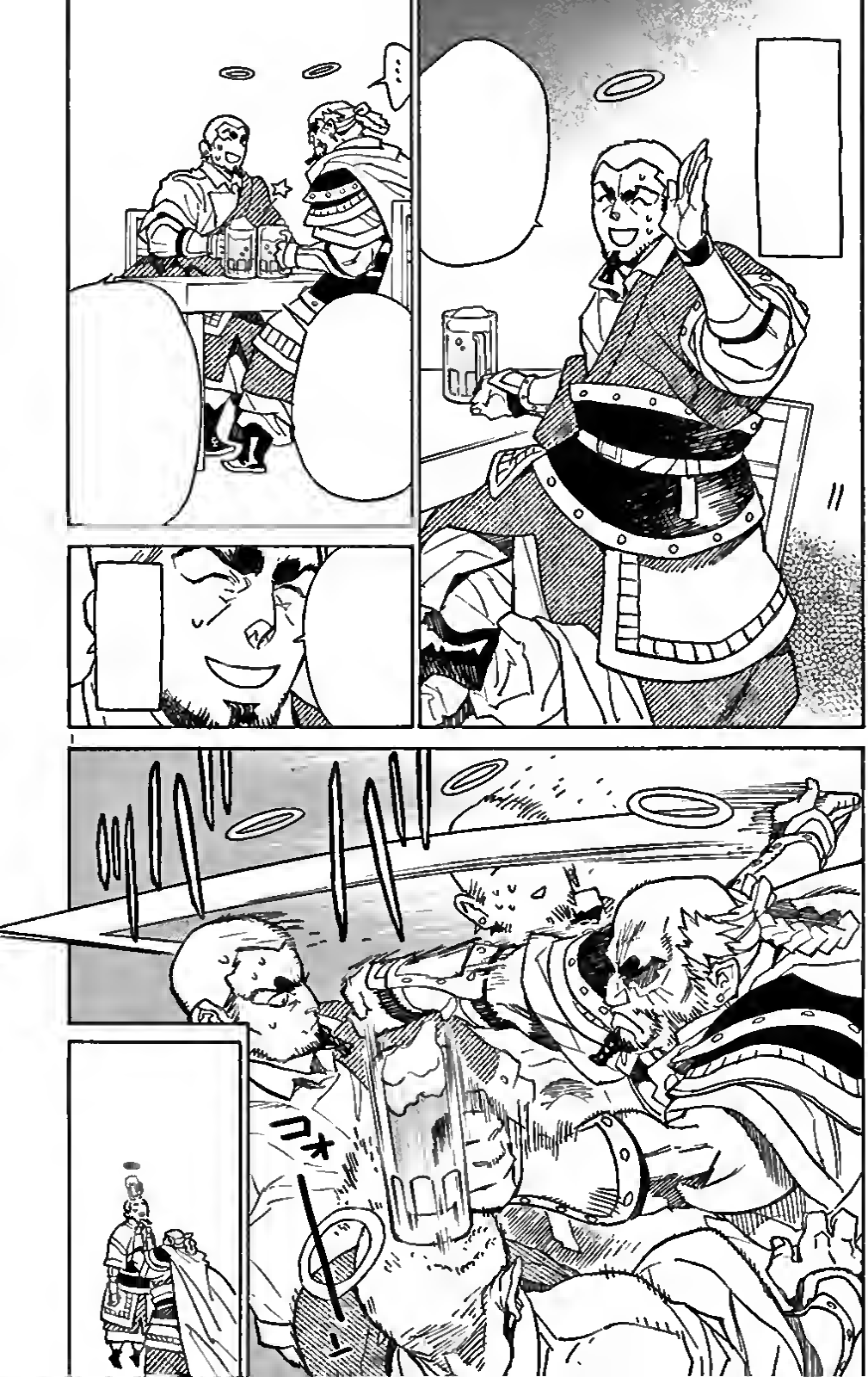
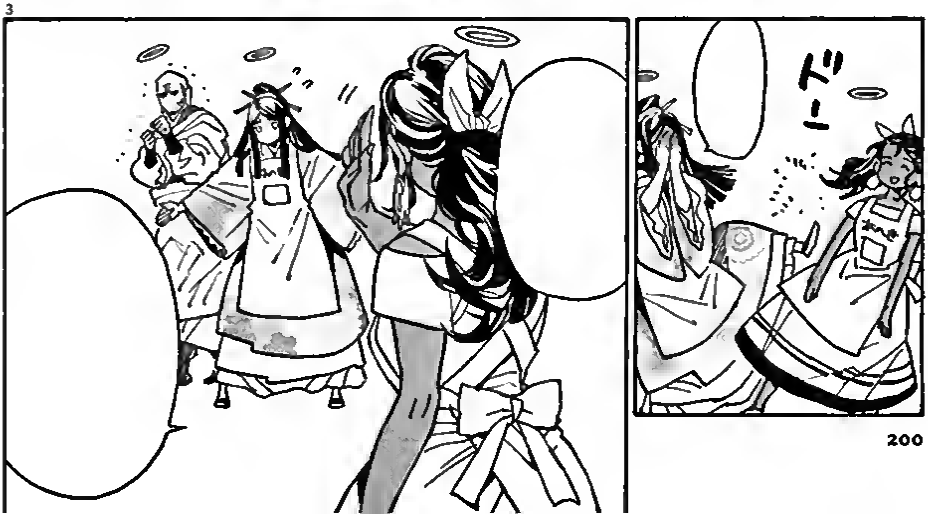
孝橋淳二


コォーー

ガガガ・・・
AAA

3



親子丼
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II

スドー復活。

ユルール、シュトヘル
そしてハラバルの
生死は――

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